

ANNALS OF IOWA.

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PRIMITIVE MAN OF IOWA, AND HOW HE LIVED.

BY HON. CHARLES H. ROBINSON.

The presence of man in Europe during the long cycles of the great ice epochs, the last of which came to an end many thousand years ago, has been clearly proven by evidence which scientists deem incontrovertible.

Scientific explorations among the ruins of ancient cities of Babylonia have brought to light written evidences of a civilization of a high culture existing ten thousand years before Christ. Both China and India claim to have records extending still further into antiquity, but in America, and especially within the limits of the United States, no well authenticated discoveries have been made which would warrant the belief that the advent of man upon this portion of the globe occurred at a period more remote than the close of the last ice age, or perhaps not earlier than the epoch known in Europe as the historic period.

It is true, however, that the conditions existing in Mexico, Central, and South America, at the time of their discovery by the whites, the civilization to which they had attained, the character of their architecture, and their numerous ruins, so ancient even then as to be lost to tradition, all point to the existence of man in those countries at a remote period, and it may be that some day scientific explorations in those countries will bring to light evidence of human occupation as early as in Babylon, or that the discovery of the key with which to unlock the hieroglyphics of the Aztecs and Incas will resurrect a literature as old as that of India or China.

While there seems to have been a racial connection between our own Indians and the peoples who in ancient times inhabited Mexico, Central America, and Peru, the great difference in the extent of their progress from a condition of pure savagery would perhaps indicate that, while they may have been of the same race, their advent may have been by successive waves of immigration, such as characterized the Indo-Germanic settlement of Europe.

Where the first human inhabitants of this country came from is entirely unknown, and a mere matter of speculation. Their own traditions trace their origin to sources as mythical as those of the Greeks and Romans.

The Choctaw tradition is that their tribe came out of a certain artificial mound in Mississippi. A depression on the top of this mound is accounted for by the Almighty stepping upon it to close the aperture when a sufficient number had emerged to form the tribe.

The Shawnees claim to have originated Phoenix-like, from the ashes of a fire; and a Georgia tribe had the earth for a father and the sun for a mother, thus reversing the Grecian myth. Some of the tribes had a tradition that their forefathers came from the west or northwest, and from this it is conjectured by some that their ancestors came originally from the great plains of Asia, the nursery of peoples. Quite a mass of evidence has been collected tending to prove that the aborigines of this country are descendants of the lost tribes of Israel, while others are confident that they are descended from a colony of Phœnicians, who are supposed to have come to this country at a time so early that even the records of that ancient civilization are silent in regard to it.

Ignatius Donnelly in his "Atlantis," has revived the story of Plato, derived originally from the Egyptian priests, that in very remote times a continent existed west of the straits of Gibraltar, connecting perhaps with the eastern or western hemisphere, or with both, which was the seat of the first civilization, and perhaps of the origin of man, and which ages ago in a cataclysm of nature, was wholly submerged with all its inhabitants.

Others again, and among them many scientists, are of the opinion that there formerly existed a very large continent occupying a portion of what is now covered by the Pacific and Indian oceans, and which was probably the primitive home of some of the races of mankind.

So far as the ordinary reader is concerned each of these theories is supported by considerable evidence, but the most unique of all is that of Rev. Cotton Mather, the eminent New England divine, who said, "The natives of the country now possessed by the New Englanders have been forlorn and wretched heathen ever since they first herded here, and though we know not how or when these Indians first became inhabitants of this mighty continent, yet we may guess that probably the devil decoyed these miserable savages hither, in hopes that the gospel would never come here to disturb his absolute empire over them."

It is altogether likely that the similitudes in manners, customs, religions, etc., between the aborigines of this country and those of various ancient peoples of the old world, instead of proving a common origin, only prove that the human mind is everywhere about the same, and that in a similar state of progress, opportunities being equal, men will use similar means to attain a desired end.

Many investigators still claim that the Mound Builders who inhabited the Ohio and Mississippi valleys at an age not very remote, were a different race from the Indians found in possession at the advent of the whites; but those who have for years given the exploration of the mounds the closest investigation in behalf of the U. S. Bureau of Ethnology, are now almost entirely united in the conclusion that the Mound Builder, so called, was the ancestor of the Indian. It does not follow, however, that all the Indians are descended from them, as it is unquestionably true that many of the tribes had not reached the development represented by the Mound Builders; they, having made great progress toward civilization had become what we call barbarians, a condition in which man in his struggle for existence is aided in a greater or less degree by the use of tools or machines.

Without recapitulating the careful comparisons of the culture of the Mound Builders with that of existing and extinct tribes, which have been made by the Bureau of Ethnology, and upon which is largely based the conclusion that the earlier were but the progenitors of the later people, let us assume that theory to be true and the following conclusion results, viz: During a period commencing some time after the close of the last Ice Age in North America, and ending with the advent of the whites or shortly before, this part of the continent was inhabited by a people who had emerged to a certain extent from the darkness of savagery, had acquired certain of the domestic arts, and whose location and boundaries are still fairly well defined by the remains of the mounds and other earthworks erected by them.

The center of this progress seems to have been in Ohio, and Iowa may be regarded as on its western frontier, the number, size and extent of these works being considered as indicative of the centers of population.

Many of these mounds have been opened by private parties, and the Bureau of Ethnology has thoroughly explored some hundreds of them in different parts of the country, and while no conclusive reason for their existence has been reached, the concensus of opinion is that many of the earthworks answered the purpose of fortifications, having the earth wall surmounted by wooden palisades, which, with strong gates of timber would render the fortress almost impregnable in the warfare of the age.

But these fortifications were few in Iowa, and have almost entirely disappeared, although there still exist in the State some thousands of the smaller mounds, which, however, are fast disappearing under the leveling influence of the plough.

Among certain of the more advanced tribes, the supposed descendants of the Mound Builders, there was a custom at and prior to the advent of the whites, of building the winter dwelling or lodge upon low mounds, the house itself being of poles wattled basket fashion and then plastered with mud and roofed with long grass or reeds. When the owner of one of these huts died it was the custom to bury him under

the center of the building, then burn it down, with perhaps all it contained and raise a mound of earth over it.

A very large number of the mounds which have been opened in Iowa have been found to contain the remains of a single individual, with broken pottery, flint and stone weapons, some rude ornaments, and with numerous lumps of burnt clay scattered through the mound, which would accord with this theory; but in some more than one skeleton has been found, and these it is conjectured, may have been the sepulchres of chiefs, and that with them were buried their slaves and wives.

Some tribes were also accustomed to disinter from their temporary burial places at stated intervals the remains of their dead, and with elaborate ceremonies deposit the bones all together, erecting over them a large mound, and this may account for the confused condition of the bones sometimes observed. There are some mounds, however, in Iowa which seem to contain no bones or other relics, and from the fact that many of these are situated upon the highest bluffs it has been conjectured that these people communicated with distant points by signals, using fires upon these mounds for the purpose, the smoke of which in the day, and the light by night, might be seen at long distances, which being repeated from station to station would transmit news of importance with great rapidity, equalled only by the telegraph itself.

Other mounds have been supposed to have been used in religious worship, but this seems to be a matter of conjecture only, based upon the fact that certain large mounds in Mexico and Central America, have upon their truncated summits ruins of buildings which were used as temples, but evidence to connect the Mound Builders with the advanced civilization of those countries is almost entirely wanting.

Certain it is, however, that the people who erected the mounds of Iowa, and the Ohio and Mississippi valleys, could not have been mere nomads depending almost entirely upon the chase for support, and with only the civil organization common among savage peoples; on the contrary, they must have had settled habitations, their support must have largely

been by agricultural products, and their government must have been so far centralized as to have had an executive head with power sufficient to maintain order and discipline, and to control and intelligently direct the immense numbers, which, with the appliances at their command, it must have required to erect the vast mounds and other earthworks yet remaining, for no people without organization and permanent abode could have accomplished such results.

This people had become skillful in the practice of many arts. Though the skins of animals must have constituted the larger part of their clothing, they had become possessed of the art of weaving, and from the hair of animals, the down and feathers of birds, the fibers of plants and the bark of trees, they produced fabrics which were spun, woven and dyed.

Basket-making had been reduced to a perfection scarcely yet acquired by the whites. The art of the potter was theirs, and although their methods of manufacture were crude, slow and laborious, their work for general utility, grace of form and ornamentation, when found unbroken, still excites our admiration.

While their tools and weapons were for the most part of wood and stone, some copper weapons and ornaments have been found in Iowa, which may have been hammered from lumps of drift copper such as are still frequently found, or they may have been acquired by barter with those who resided at or visited the copper mines upon the shores of Lake Superior, which show evidences of having been extensively worked at a very remote period.

A few years ago I saw a copper spear-head four or five inches in length which was found in Marion county.

It does not seem that they had learned to smelt iron, and yet they must have been on the point of making the discovery, for I have in my collection a hatchet of red hematite, which is almost pure iron, and had it fallen into the fire under certain conditions they might have made the discovery by accident.

Contrary to the popular belief which attributes to the In-

dians great skill in the knowledge and use of medicinal herbs for the cure of disease, the fact is they had scarcely any knowledge of diagnosis, or of the rational treatment of any ailment. Their medical practice was almost wholly made up of incantation and powwow, and when decoctions of herbs were used they were more frequently taken by the medicine man himself than by the patient; but plants were sometimes burned and the smoke blown against the ailing part. Disease was by them usually attributed to witchcraft or evil spirits, and consequently could only be driven away by exorcisms and incantations, and in this they agreed very nearly with their contemporaries, our European ancestors of the Middle Ages. They did however have some remedies which they attempted to apply in a rational manner whether the remedies were rational or not.

Thus, there was a wild flower called by them "Deers-eye," because of its supposed resemblance to the eye of that animal, from which a lotion was made for sore eyes. The common purslane was used as a vermifuge because its red stalk looks like a worm. The little burrs which adhere to our clothes as we pass through the woods, and are commonly called "beggar lice," were boiled and the tea used to strengthen the memory, upon the theory that it would make things stick in the mind; probably a primitive conception of the principle, "*similia similibus curantur*;" and the man who desired to become a good singer drank a tea made from crickets!

While most of their remedies were senseless and many of them positively injurious, still in some diseases actual cautery and the sweat-bath were beginning to be used instead of the incantations of the medicine man.

Their religion, while it was not a belief in the one Great Spirit or Manitou, as was supposed by the early missionaries, was being developed with their progress, just as had been the case among primitive peoples generally. Their belief in the immortality of the soul, or at least in a future life, is sufficiently attested by their custom of burying with the deceased his weapons and principal possessions, the spirits.

of which were supposed to attend him and minister to his wants in the land beyond the tomb.

While they no doubt worshipped the sun as the visible source of light and heat, and their only conception of creative or regenerative power, they were not given to idolatry generally, and there is little evidence that their worship of the sun was accompanied by such gross indecencies of sex-worship as characterized that cult in many of the nations of antiquity; and it is by no means certain that human sacrifices were ever offered by them in worship, although wives and slaves may have been killed upon the death of a chief to be buried with him.

For habitations they probably used in the summer time brush huts covered with reeds or long grass, and perhaps tents of buffalo hides from which the hair had been removed by the application of wet ashes, and which had then been scraped with a flint knife until thin and pliable, and such tents were used no doubt in winter by those who did not occupy some permanent abode, and with a clay hearth or fireplace in the center, the smoke escaping through a hole at the apex, they could be made reasonably comfortable; but the usual abode of the Mound Builder must have been much more permanent, comfortable and commodious. Many of the smaller mounds probably were the sites of small wattled huts occupied by the single families, but in various parts of Iowa, frequently in the immediate vicinity of and associated with the mounds, we find circular or oval depressions in the earth, which upon investigation prove to be pits or excavations from twenty to sixty feet in diameter, the dirt from which when originally excavated having been piled up around the edge until the wall thus formed was eight or ten feet in height from the bottom of the excavation. Poles or posts were planted in the center to support a sloping roof made of poles covered first with brush then with earth, and finally with long grass to shed the rain. These dwellings were occupied in the winter by families of two or three generations, and for comfort were certainly equal to the sod-house and dugout of the homesteader.

Peeping in upon the occupants of one of these earth lodges let us see how they are occupying themselves and what, if any, preparations they have made for the winter. In various bins and receptacles made by driving stakes into the ground and wattling with brush, we will find several bushels of corn which were raised by the women upon the bottom lands during the summer; the ears are small compared with their colossal successors now grown with modern appliances for breaking and cultivation, but they are the unmistakable fore-runners of Iowa's great staple crop; and hanging upon the sides of the crib we will probably see the flint mattocks, hoes and spades with which the cultivating was done; and near by will be the family mortar of stone or hard wood in which the corn is to be ground and the pestle made of stone, or a round stone on the end of a stick to be used in grinding it. In a pile near the crib are the pumpkins and squashes raised with the corn, and which roasted in the ashes will add to the bill of fare. Part of the corn will be made into hominy by boiling with ashes, and the meal will be made into cakes by baking on hot stones.

Hanging to the posts which support the roof by limbs left projecting a few inches for pegs, are baskets made of grass, willow, splints of wood or strips of bark, containing hickory nuts, walnuts, butternuts, hazel nuts, acorns, dried wild plums, the seeds of large grasses and wild rice, and well out of the way of vermin and other depredators are the receptacles containing the principal article of winter food, pemmican, which is made by cutting the flesh of the buffalo, deer, elk and bear into thin strips, which, when dried in the sun until perfectly hard, are pounded into a coarse powder in mortars and then put into parfleches, made by stretching the hide of a buffalo bull after being denuded of hair, over a rudely squared piece of a log and fastening it down until dried, when it ever after keeps its shape; and these boxes after being filled with the pounded jerk or dried meat, have melted buffalo tallow or bear's grease poured over the contents when it will then keep for months. This pemmican was made by the women who followed the men on the fall

hunt, and whose duty it was to take charge of the game after it was killed, each being able to determine what animals were killed by her lord and master by his mark upon the arrow found in the body, or if more than one weapon was found therein, then the one whose arrow seemed to have found a vital part was entitled to the carcass. The women skinned the carcasses, prepared the pemmican, cured the hides for the various uses, carefully removing from the flesh all the long tendons which were to be used for sewing thread and cord. The skin from the heads of the buffalo and elk was boiled until the glue rose to the top and was there collected on the end of a stick, taking it out and cooling it from time to time that more might adhere, and this glue was used to fasten arrow and spear-heads and other weapons, and for other purposes.

Probably hanging to other posts we will see some game recently killed, or fish speared through the ice, for they did not depend entirely upon the provisions laid up. A goodly store of tobacco will also be seen hanging to the pegs, for all are smokers, and here and there we will see hides prepared for various articles of clothing. Those soft skins of the fawn and these with the down of the swan, the loving mother has reserved for the clothing of her babe which hangs by its swinging cradle to another peg, and its garments will be ornamented with feathers and quills dyed in the brightest colors the pigments and barks of the locality will furnish. By her skillful hands too will be made the clothing of the older children and most of that of her lord, as well as his gorgeous warbonnet and the feather-trimmed robes with which he so proudly decks himself on state occasions. Her thread is a moistened tendon, her needle a sharpened bone used as an awl—thimble, she has none—and she cuts the garments out by guess with a flint knife shaped very much like the round knife of our harness maker, or the hash knife so familiar in the kitchen.

In various places about this dwelling we will see woven fabrics, mostly small, however, for weaving has not got beyond the most primitive conditions, and the products of the

loom are usually narrow and short and when used in garments must be pieced together.

The fire-place we will find to be a hearth of pounded clay now burned to a brick red by the fire almost continually alight upon it. Near the fire-place will be the pile of dry sticks for fuel and the stone hammer with which to break them into proper lengths, while hanging close by is the leather bag containing the fire-sticks and tinder; for this people have long ago mastered the art of producing fire at will, and if the fire on this hearth should go out the lady of the house would not need to send one of the children to a neighbor's to borrow a coal.

Most primitive peoples have early learned the use of the fire-stick in some form; sometimes to be used with the bow, or pumpdrill, or with the assistance of another person; but the North American tribes generally produced fire by twirling a dry stick rapidly between the hands, the sharpened point being held firmly in a socket in a lower stick which was held in place by the operator kneeling upon it. Sometimes friction was aided by a few grains of sand dropped into the socket, and when ignition of the powdered wood thus ground off occurred, it fell off through a notch in the socket upon tinder of rotten wood, the inner bark of a tree, or the fibers of plants placed there for the purpose, and a fire could be kindled thus in less than a minute.

Before they had learned a method of producing fire at pleasure it was of grave importance that a tribe should not permit all its fires to be extinguished at the same time, and this fear was the origin among savage peoples of the practice of preserving sacred fire, which being usually obtained from some tree which had been ignited by lightning seemed to have come from heaven.

The importance of fire to primitive man has given rise to many myths in regard to its origin, and of these the aborigines of this country had several, some of which in a considerable degree resembled that of Prometheus, in that they have the gods secreting the fire to prevent man from obtaining possession of it, and having it finally stolen from them

for man's benefit. The fire myth current in one of the tribes was, that once when it was all dark a great medicine man kept the sun, moon and stars, together with fire, shut up in a box. A raven, which was the guardian genius of the tribe, by enchantment caused itself to be born as the son of the medicine man's daughter, and as he grew became a great favorite with his grandfather, who would not permit anything to be denied him. One day the boy asked for this box to play with and, it being given to him, he soon pried the lid open, when the heavenly bodies immediately flew to their places in the sky, while the raven, assuming again his proper form, caught up a coal of fire in his bill and brought it at once to the home of the tribe.

In this winter lodge too we will find numerous articles of pottery, both large and small, and of this also the women were manufacturers. The clay was carefully selected, then washed to remove all impurities, then tempered by adding a certain amount of pulverized potsherds, burned and pounded shells, a little sand or some pulverized mica, which were well mixed by treading with the feet, at the same time adding water to bring the mass to a proper consistency. There were various modes of building the vessels, depending upon their size and the purposes for which they were intended, the smaller ones used as drinking vessels and vases being moulded by hand, adding clay and shaping them from time to time with polished pieces of bone, shell or wood dipped in water. A larger size was sometimes made in a basket, the basket being removed when the vessel was partly dry but leaving the imprint of its woven rushes or willows on the finished vessel; and sometimes a piece of their coarse cloth was wrapped about the jar to hold it up until sufficiently dry to stand, and from the indelible impressions left by these pieces we have derived much knowledge of their methods of weaving and the appearance of their woven fabrics. The large vessels, such as the immense pots in which their meats were boiled, by inserting red hot stones, and in which some of the tribes made maple sugar, were elaborately built by rolling out prepared clay in rolls about as thick as

the finger and as long as could be handled, and these rolls were carefully coiled one upon another, all the while being carefully finished inside and out with the fingers and polishing implements, gradually bulging out to nearly the size of a barrel for the swell, and then drawing in for the neck or mouth, and retaining all the while a remarkable uniformity of thickness.

Many of their vessels were ornamented; some having markings as if a corncob had been pressed in all over the surface; others had regular rows of indentations made apparently with the thumb nail; others had straight, waved or crossed lines, or dots and dashes; others had a row of little knobs around near the top made by pressing a rounded stick or bone at intervals upon the inside while the clay was still soft, and still others had the edges crimped in the way our mothers used to crimp a pie. The ornamentations indeed were varied and seem to have depended entirely upon the skill or caprice of the workwoman. Handles, lips and feet were added as she might desire.

These vessels were first completely dried in the sun and before the fire, after which they were filled with hot coals, a goodly pile of coals was heaped over them, and they were left to burn hard and slowly cool.

They had no knowledge of glazing, but their pottery was quite efficient for the purposes for which it was intended, and the fact that it has been found at considerable depths in mounds and tombs entirely perfect, although exposed for some centuries to the damp, is sufficient evidence of the thoroughness of the workmanship.

Sometimes when this primitive potter became expert she made vessels in the form of animals and human beings. Prof. W. H. Holmes, in one of the reports of the Bureau of Ethnology, describes a Mound Builder's vase ten inches high in the form of a woman sitting on her heels with her hands on her knees and her face in profile. A good deal of attention had been paid to the details of anatomy. The back was much humped, and the vertebrae represented by

knobs, while the knees, calves, ankles and portions of the feet were depicted with tolerable accuracy.

Gathered around the fire of these earth lodges, the light being aided perhaps by pottery lamps, the women engaged in grinding the corn, cracking the nuts, cooking the food, preparing the hides for the various uses, weaving cloth, making baskets, and repairing and making the clothing for the family. Around the fire too sat the men when the weather was too inclement for hunting game or for spearing fish through holes in the ice, or when the family larder was sufficiently supplied so that there was no immediate necessity for exertion; and here they would make their stone hatchets, flint knives, arrow and spear-heads, bows, arrows, spears and other weapons, and even toy bows, arrows and hatchets for their little boys, for small implements have been found which could have been intended for no other purpose.

Here, too, they smoked, their pipes being of stone and often elaborately carved into animal forms by those patient workmen to whom time was no object, and money was unknown.

Here they gambled also, "bucking the tiger," with a fierceness known only among savage and barbarous peoples. Their games were usually purely of chance and very simple, such as taking a number of beans or other small articles in the hand and having guesses made as to the number, drawing sticks for the long and short ones, and in some tribes they had a rude kind of dice, and yet at these games they would bet and lose every article of their personal property, including their wives.

The children engaged in various sports and games also, and old and young delighted in telling and hearing stories, many of their favorite tales being about ghosts and "The gobbleuns 'at gits ye, ef you don't watch out." One of the many stories collected by the Bureau of Ethnology is this: A young man died just before he was to have been married to a girl whom he dearly loved. The girl mourned his death, cutting her hair and gashing her limbs with a knife, as if she had been an old woman. The ghost of the young

man returned and took her for a wife. Whenever the tribe camped for the night the ghost's wife pitched her tent at a distance from others, and when the camp was moved the woman and her ghost husband kept some distance behind the main body. The ghost always told the woman what to do, and he brought her game regularly which the wife gave to the people in exchange for other articles. The people could neither hear nor see the ghost, but they heard his wife talk to him. He always sent word to the tribe when there was to be a high wind and heavy rain. He could read the thoughts of his wife so that she need not speak a word to him, and when she felt a desire for anything he soon obtained it for her.

To make his weapons and tools no doubt required the most of the time the man could spare from the chase or fishing, and for this purpose he needed tools to work with. His tool-chest, or what answered for one, must have contained a great number of articles. In the chest or near it must have been a large smooth stone of granite or some other very hard kind to be used as an anvil, and hanging up over the fire would be the wood for bows, arrows and spears, becoming thoroughly seasoned. Then in the chest he must have stone hammers, axes and hatchets, finished and in the rough, as well as hammer-stones of the hardest flint for use in pecking and chipping into shape the numerous stone implements which he must make. He must have chips of flint, and masses of the same from which to procure by percussion or pressure flakes to be made into arrow- and spear-heads, knives, drills and perforators. He must have sharpened shells or bones to scrape his arrow-shafts, and grooved sand-stones to straighten them. Feathers to make the arrows carry straight, and shredded sinew and glue with which to fasten on the head properly. He must have whetstones for sharpening his edged tools, and buffalo horns to make spoons and skinning knives. Then he must have awls of various sizes, flint drills, pigments to paint his face, or for picture-writing, flint knives, daggers, saws, rawhide and dressed deerskin to repair his clothing and moccasins, stone adzes,

gouges, chisels, mauls, bones shaped for finishing arrow-heads, buckhorns for knife-hafts and other uses, twine made from wild hemp or other fibrous plants or bark of trees, for fish lines or nets, and bones or shells suitable for making fish hooks, his fire-sticks and tinder without which he never went more than a short distance from home, a small vise made with properly shaped bones wrapped with tendons to hold firmly his arrow-heads and other small articles while in the process of manufacture, and doubtless many other implements which he finds convenient for use.

When we consider that this savage artisan must not only make his own weapons and implements, but also the tools to make them with, and that it took a whole day to make a good arrow and many days to make an adze, hatchet or other implement, by the slow process of pecking one stone against another and then rubbing it with another containing grit; when we recollect too, that to make a canoe he must first burn down a tree, then burn it off the right length, and then alternately burning with live coals and scraping and pecking off the charred part with stone tools, he must form the cavity; and when we consider also the time he must employ in killing game for the support of his family and to lay up for winter, we will certainly modify our previous notion that the life of the primitive Iowan, was one of either dignified ease or savage laziness.

The above statements in regard to the conditions surrounding primitive man of Iowa, are based upon the conclusion, as suggested in the beginning of this article, that the Mound Builders were not a separate race, but that their descendants may be found among some of the more advanced Indian tribes.

Whatever may be thought of the domestic arts, government, religion, medicine, etc., of those first settlers of Iowa, their achievements in these things are just such milestones as mark the progress of every civilized people if we will but trace their history backward. At the time of the advent of the whites, primitive man of North America, had, in addition to the matters already enumerated, made quite an advance

along some other lines. He had domesticated the dog, or rather had evolved him from the wolf; and had made him not only his friend, companion and servant in the pursuit of game, but had utilized him as a bearer of burdens, and by harnessing him to a sled in the winter, had made him the motive power in transportation. His mode of government had been developed from a condition of pure savagery into tribal confederations sometimes of immense power, with a government democratic in that it derived all its power from the consent of the governed. His laws though unwritten and few in number, were based upon primitive ideas of justice and the protection of society, and were executed no doubt with reasonable impartiality. He had begun to feel the need of permanent records, and a picture-writing which was beginning to assume a somewhat phonetic character was coming into use among the more advanced tribes. Agriculture in the most favorable localities had reached such proportions that he was no longer dependent entirely upon the chase for a livelihood.

It is nearly certain that he was on the point of discovering the art of smelting iron and some other ores. If he had not already begun, he soon would have commenced the domestication of the buffalo, and perhaps some of the other animals and wild fowl, and this by necessitating permanency of abode would have brought about the ownership of land, or at least the right of exclusive possession, from which point the upward progress of a people has always been by rapid strides. The race was certainly at the time of the discovery of this country by Columbus, capable in all respects of achieving for itself a high grade of civilization, differing no doubt much from our own, but nevertheless far above the present average of the Indian in this country. The contact with the whites following the discovery of the country, precipitated upon the natives a civilization and a religion for which they were in nowise prepared, and which it was impossible for them to assimilate: indeed, upon an average they have so far seemed capable only of acquiring and practicing the vices of their conquerors.

At the first the contact with the whites, and especially the readiness with which the aborigines adopted the evil and vicious practices of the superior civilization, seemed to indicate their certain and early extinction, but in more recent years, since they have become the wards of the Nation, they have received upon their reservations food, clothing, more comfortable habitations, and, to a considerable degree, rational treatment when attacked by disease; the strong arm of the Government has interfered to prevent the wars of extermination formerly so frequently waged between tribes, and now, it is said, their number is increasing. Some of the tribes have been induced to abandon the tribal relation and to accept an allotment of their lands in severalty, and have made more or less progress toward civilization. At Hampton, Va., and Carlisle, Pa., Indian boys and girls are taught the rudiments of an education and some of the domestic arts, but a graduate of either school is as likely upon his return to the reservation, to revert to the blanket and paint of his forefathers as to practice the arts of civilization for the benefit of his tribe, and the problem of the future of the Indian is yet to be solved. Of this fact we may have ocular demonstration by a visit to the reservation within a few miles of Iowa's capital city.

In my opinion had America never been discovered by the whites, primitive man of Iowa would now be many degrees higher in the scale of civilization than is his degenerate representative upon the Tama county reservation.

UTILITARIANS may prate as much as they please on the vanity of archaeological and black-letter pursuits, but, for our own part, we confess we love to luxuriate among dusty, worm-eaten tomes,—to shake hands, as it were, with our forefathers, and trace some superannuated usage, or fugitive fashion, through each descent and change, from age to age. After all, despite the work-a-day wisdom that now, literally “crieth out in the streets,” there are few intelligent minds that do not, on particular points, pay unconscious homage to hoar antiquity!—*Dublin Review, April, 1838.*



*Yours sincerely,
Leonard F. Parker.*

LEONARD F. PARKER, A. M.

Professor of History in Iowa College, Grinnell, author of "Higher Education in Iowa," 1893, etc., etc.

PRESIDENT GRANT'S DES MOINES ADDRESS.

BY PROF. L. F. PARKER.

President Grant's speech in Des Moines, September 29,* 1875, at the ninth annual meeting of the Society of the Army of the Tennessee, was a very remarkable one. The report of it, which was most widely circulated, was no less remarkable. "The silent man" made his longest speech on that occasion probably, reading it from a hastily penciled manuscript. No one anticipated that he would address his late comrades in arms in words of warning of a possible conflict in the near future between American "patriotism and intelligence on the one side and superstition, ambition and ignorance on the other," or that he would urge the public support of common schools as an essential safeguard against such an impending evil.

The report of it which slipped into type and was then telegraphed over the country was strangely inaccurate, also. Its most serious error represented the President as adjuring his hearers to oppose the educational policy which the nation had entrenched in the ordinance of 1787 and which had become popular in the states. He was made to say, substantially, "support common schools and none above the common schools."

That this part of the report was an utter misrepresentation was suspected by few, and they found it difficult to explain, even to themselves, how such a complete uniformity should exist in the reports of the speech made by many writers, or why no word of objection should be uttered by Grant himself who remained in the city till sometime after the address was in print and in the hands of possibly thousands of readers.

It seemed reasonable, then, that a college president, who

*The date was not "October 6" as it has often been given unless the *official* report. is incorrect.

was making an argument against higher education by the state, should introduce that speech into it. He said: "A turn of the tide is at hand." "Gen. Grant thinks he sees that popular education must unload the upper tiers of institutions which have been piled upon it of late years, in order to save common schools from Catholic assaults." The present writer could neither believe that Grant intended all he was reported to have said or that "a turn of the tide" against all public education above common schools was "at hand." He accordingly prepared a paper for the State Teachers' Association on that subject. He entered upon his work chiefly to prove that there had been no change in public sentiment concerning the wisest educational policy, but felt obliged to speak as follows of Grant's speech as it had reached the great public:

"Without considering the report that that speech was fashioned in Des Moines or that an unpresidential hand introduced a few words into it which the speaker did not notice and would not approve, the speech itself does not seem to sustain these extreme and positive declarations. Only a single sentence in all the speech can by any possibility be tortured into opposition to all education by the state except that in common schools, and that one is sandwiched into an argument against sectarian education and made a part of it. It was this sectarian education, and this only, as we believe, at which he aimed all his blows. However, it must be conceded that no man competent to weigh words fairly and resolved to state his convictions honestly, could affirm that the intention of the speaker in the use of the words in question is absolutely unquestionable. If he intended all the hostility to higher education by the state which his words could mean, they are curiously out of place; if he did not, they are certainly infelicitous."

Before I read that paper in public I concluded to settle the question of Grant's intention, if possible, without regard to the words he used. To make the effort more certain of success I induced the then governor of the State to subscribe the letter of inquiry which I had prepared. Gen. Grant's reply was as follows:

EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON, }
NOVEMBER 17th, 1875. }

HON. S. J. KIRKWOOD, Iowa City, Iowa:

DEAR SIR—Your letter of the 4th inst. was received about the time I was starting for New York City, one week ago yesterday. I expected to answer it immediately on my return, but permitted the matter to escape my mind until this time.

What I said in Des Moines was hastily noted down in pencil and may have expressed my views imperfectly. I have not the manuscript before me as I gave it to the Secretary of the Society. My idea of what I said is this: "Resolve that the State or Nation, or both combined, shall furnish to every child growing up in the land, the means of acquiring a good common school education," etc.

Such is my idea and such I intended to have said.

I feel no hostility to free education going as high as the State or National government feels able to provide—protecting, however, every child in the privilege of a common school education before public means are appropriated to a higher education for the few. Yours truly,

U. S. GRANT.

Thus it was made clear as the sun that Grant's thought was but an echo of a well-settled, long-cherished American idea. It was worthy of the man and of his office. But the distortion of his meaning had flown swifter than the wind to every quarter of the land and was staining pages of current history in every hamlet of the Nation. That letter was caught up eagerly everywhere from Boston to San Francisco. It relieved the President of the odium of being esteemed a blundering thinker on an educational topic, but not entirely from the suspicion of having been a blundering speaker.

Thus, "What did Grant *say* in Des Moines?"—became an inquiry of the curious, and especially of those who had occasion, at times, to study remarkable and successful falsifications of public speeches or of important public documents. Some were inclined to think that this was a striking instance of a blunder by a soldier who was more accurate in the use of his sword than in the construction of his sentences. Others deemed it a case of artful forgery. The present writer maintained a sort of intermittent interest in that manuscript, and took a step occasionally to ascertain what it did actually contain. These efforts have been somewhat minutely detailed in his monograph on Education in Iowa which was published by the National Bureau of Education. The result was a demonstration (if any fact of history can be demonstrated) that Grant *wrote* exactly what he intended to

say on the point we are considering. The evidence, in brief, was as follows:

1. The printed report of Gen. L. M. Dayton, the secretary of the society before which the address was delivered, indicates it.* Gen. Dayton wrote me that he put it in type with the utmost care and directly from Grant's manuscript.

2. A member of congress examined that manuscript in the White House and gave me his certificate that the paragraph under discussion agreed exactly with Sec'y Dayton's report.

3. Gen. W. W. Belknap, Grant's Secretary of War, sent me a photograph of Grant's pencilings which he had caused to be taken. Col. Fred D. Grant wrote me that his father, on his death-bed, pronounced the Belknap photograph (which I had sent him) an accurate reproduction of his Des Moines speech. (That photograph appears in fac simile on accompanying pages in this number of THE ANNALS)

The proof of what Grant *intended* to write and of what he *did* write is thus unnecessarily abundant.

How was it possible, then, that the falsified report should secure a place in type so nearly universal that few writers have ever seen the address in any other form? It was delivered in Des Moines twenty-two years ago and it is said that not a single non-falsified copy of it which was printed there can now be found! One reporter is confident that it was printed correctly in his paper, but the number in which it was supposed to have appeared can not be discovered in any public or private file in the city. But the change was easily made. The report, as printed in *The Iowa State Register*, contained interpolations of two or three letters and three words which effected the falsification. Printed slips of that report were then used in sending telegrams to the great dailies, and these became the trusted authorities of writers of magazine articles and of bound volumes.

Such an error in a semi-state paper, and one of such persistent vitality, is legitimately an object for searching examination. Shall we class it with literary frauds, with

*Reunions of the Society of the Army of the Tennessee, 1872-'78, p. 385.

Isidorian Decretals in ecclesiastical history and with Roobacks in politics? Prof. Hammond, a learned Iowa writer, some years ago, classed it among "frauds of the most surprising character."*

The gentleman who made that report for *The Register* now tells us that the error crept into his notice after the copy left his hand and escaped correction by careless proof reading. It is to be regretted that this explanation was not given and emphasized some years ago, and so emphasized that best informed Des Moines writers should have been altogether unable to make any serious mistake in 1897 as to this sentence on common schools. Perhaps those most familiar with the possibilities of grave errors in the rush of newspaper offices will be most inclined to pronounce this simply an unlucky accident. Surely, none will be anxious to insist on giving it the worst possible construction. All have a right to expect that Des Moines pre-eminently and Iowa especially, will take such pains in calling attention to the accurate reproduction of that speech that it shall be impossible for the twentieth century to perpetuate the libel on Grant which the last quarter of the nineteenth has so persistently repeated. Grant's educational views were as wise as the strategy which culminated at Appomattox.

Americans cannot afford to do Grant a grave injustice.

*Hammond's Lieber's Hermeneutics, p. 74.

Lemrad.

It always affords me much gratification to meet my old comrades in arms of 10-14 years ago, and to live over again the trials and hardships of those days, in the ^{hardships} imposed for the promotion & perpetuation of our ^{institutions} ~~free government~~. We believed then, and believe now that we had a government worth fighting for, and if need be dying for. How many

of our comrades of those
days paid the latter price
for our preserved Union.
Let their ~~sacrifices~~ ^{business & sacrifice}
be ever green in our memory.

Let not the results of
their sacrifices be destroyed.
The Union & free institu-
tions for which they fell
should be held more
dear for their sacrifices.

We will not deny to
any of those who fought
against us any privilege
under the government
which we claim for

we solve. On the contrary
we welcome all of ^{such} them
who come forward in
good faith to help build
up the waste places, and
perpetuate our institutions
against all enemies as
brothers in full interest
with us in a common
struggle. ^{But we are not} It is to be hoped
prepared to apologize for the part
that ^{our} ^{took} ^{the} ^{good} ^{struggle} ^{befall} ^{our} ^{country}. In this
sentiment no class of
people can more heartily
join than the soldier

who submitted to the dangers, trials & hardships of the Camp & the battle field, on which ever side he may have ~~been~~^{fought} ~~found~~. No class of people are more interested in guarding against a recurrence of those days. Let us then begin by guarding against every ~~danger~~ enemy threatening the perpetuity of free Republican institutions & do not bring into this

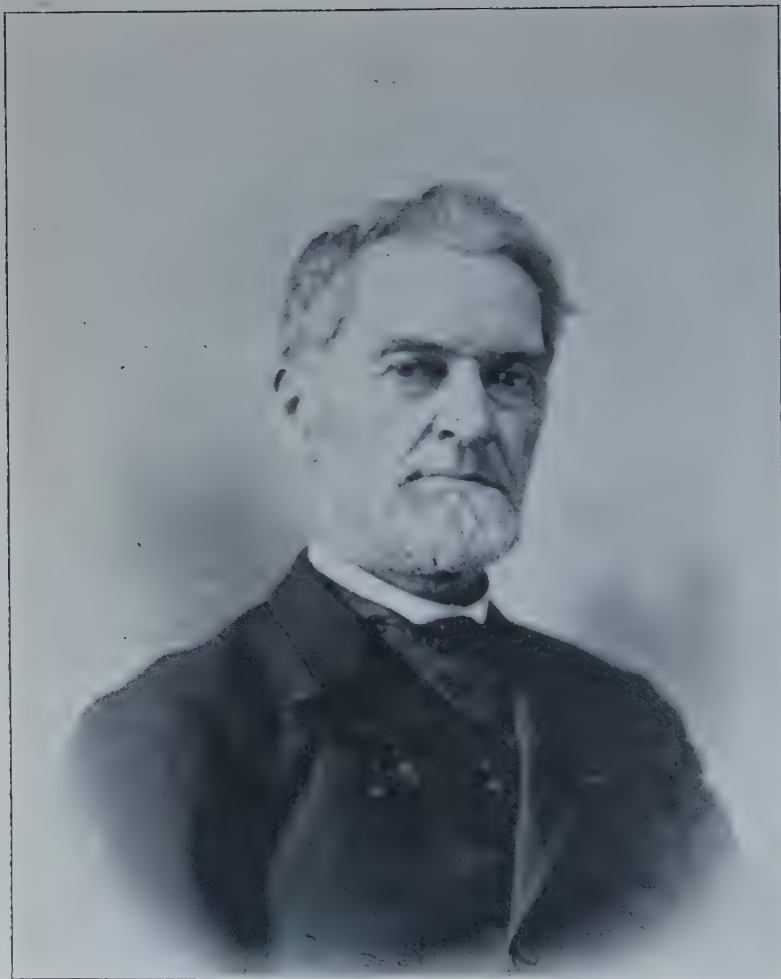
Assemblage politics, certainly not partizan politics but it is a fair subject for the deliberation of soldiers to consider what may be necessary to secure the prize for which they battled. In a Republic like ours where the Citizen is the sovereign and the official the servant, where no power is exercised except by the will of the people it is important that the sovereign - The people - should possess intelligence

The free school is the promotor
 of that intelligence which is
 to preserve us, ^{as by the Nation} If we are to
 have another contest in
 the near future of our
^{National} existence I predict that
 the dividing line ^{will} ~~is not~~
 to ^{not} be Mason & Slaxens
 but between ^{Patriotism &} intelligence on
 the one side & Superstitions
 Ambition & ignorance on the
 other. Now in this Centennial
 year ^{of our National existence} I believe it a good time
 to begin the work of ^{strengthening} ~~preparing~~
 the ^{foundation of the house} ~~house~~ ^{commenced} ~~erected~~ to stand which
^{day} ^{ears} by our patriotic forefathers born

~~Assumed~~ I to have, one
hundred years ago at
Concord & Lexington Let
us all labor to add all
needed guarantees for the
more perfect security of Free
Thought, Free speech, a Free
press, Pure Morals, Unfettered
Religious Sentiment, and of
Equal Right & Privileges to
all men irrespective of
~~sex~~ Nationality, Color or
Religion. Encourage free
schools and resolve that not
one dollar of money ap-
propriated to their support

no matter how raised, shall
be appropriated to the sup-
port of any sectarian school.
Resolve that either the state
or Nation or both combined
shall support institutions
of learning, ^{sufficient to} ~~that will~~ afford
to every child growing up
in the ~~Union~~ ^{land} the opportuni-
ty of a good common
school education, unmixed
with sectarian, pagan or
atheistical tenets. Leave
the matter of religion to
the family, church, the church
& the private school supported

entirely by private contributions
Keep the church and state
~~separate~~ forever separate,
With these Lifeguards I believe
the battles which create us 'the
Army of the Tennessee' will
not have been fought in
vain



Reuben Noble

THE LATE HON. REUBEN NOBLE, OF M'GREGOR, CLAYTON COUNTY.
Speaker of the Iowa House of Representatives, 1854-56; Judge Tenth Judicial
District, 1875-79.

REUBEN NOBLE.

BY T. H. STUDEBAKER.

There are men whose lives stand out in bold relief among their fellows. As one tall tree towers above all others of the forest, they lift their heads far above those who surround them. Such men leave a lasting impression upon all with whom they associate in life. Their influence is never negative, but always positive. They "stamp improvement on the wings of time." They are not content to travel in the old ruts, but seek for better paths in which to journey. They are ambitious, but their ambition is not ephemeral; rather the result of mature reason. Such a character was Reuben Noble.

His father, Henry Noble, was born in Maryland, October, 1772, and was of English parentage. When twenty-three years of age he removed to the state of Mississippi, where in 1799 he married Mary Swazy, a native of that state and of Irish descent. Henry Noble was a well-informed man, and kept close watch of the stirring events of his time. He was a regular reader of "*Niles' Register*," a very ably edited periodical published at Baltimore, Maryland. He was the father of twelve children, of whom Reuben was the last one living. Henry Noble, on account of his anti-slavery sentiments removed to Jersey county, Illinois, when our subject was twelve years of age. He died there at the advanced age of seventy-nine years.

Reuben first saw the light of day near Natchez, Mississippi, April 14, 1821. Here among the sunny fields of this flowery South land, he passed the first years of his life, when, as stated above, he came with his parents to Jersey county, Illinois.

Of course in those early days educational advantages were not of the best, and our subject only attended school three months after he was twelve years of age. He worked

on his father's farm until he was eighteen years old, when he decided to make the law his profession. He was only a little past twenty-one when admitted to the bar. In the spring of 1842 he came to Fair Play, Wisconsin, where he began practicing his profession, and also engaged to some extent in mining. But hearing of the rich prairies of Clayton county, he removed thither, and in October, 1843, opened a law office in Jacksonville, now Garnavillo. He at once determined to make this his home. On the 19th of June, 1844, he was married to Harriet C. Douglass, of Jersey county, Illinois. He continued the practice of the law at Garnavillo until 1857, when he removed to McGregor, which continued to be his home until his death, which occurred August 8, 1896.

As stated above, his educational advantages had been very limited. But the subject of this sketch early evinced a desire for learning. During the three years of his life from eighteen to twenty-one, in addition to his preparation for the law, he also acquired some knowledge of Latin and also of literature and science in general. With this, however, he was not content, but continued a student not only of law, but of knowledge in general to the day of his death, and was regarded as a well educated person. He was an exceptionally well-informed man.

In his boyhood days he had acquired a practical knowledge of agriculture, and when he beheld the rich prairies of Clayton county stretching before him in all their richness and grandeur, the love for agriculture was greatly increased. Hence it was that shortly after coming to Clayton county, he became the possessor of a farm, and was ever after a liberal patron of agriculture with all its kindred branches. He read agricultural papers, and was frequently a contributor to the press on subjects of interest in this direction. He also gave some attention to mining, and helped develop some of the lead mines of the county.

But he was first of all a lawyer, and bent to the mastery of his chosen profession with an untiring devotion. For this profession he was peculiarly adapted both by nature and

training. He applied himself to the law with such energy and perseverance that he soon came to be recognized as one of the foremost lawyers of Northeastern Iowa, and was consulted and retained by a numerous clientage over a large territory. In the practice of his profession he had a distinct individuality. When he grappled with the intricacies of a knotty legal question, he went at it with full confidence and self-reliance. Of a rugged constitution, he shrank from no task however difficult, and applied himself to unravel the mystery with confidence, and a full determination to become perfect master of the case in hand. It should be said, however, that he seemed to have adopted one of Blackstone's principles of law as his guide, viz: that "Man should live honestly, should hurt nobody, and render to every one his just dues." This was the rule of his life in everything. Did he find upon thorough investigation of a cause that there was no need of a lawsuit that might make life-long enemies and pile up costs to no purpose—he at once addressed himself to bring about a compromise. It may be truthfully said that he often carried this idea of compromise to the extent of financial loss to himself. But his innate love of peace was always sufficient reason for him to make the sacrifice. In the study and preparation of a case, he confined himself not to his office and books alone, but he was a student of human nature. He carefully studied the people with whom he came in contact, and the knowledge thus acquired gave him a great advantage when impaneling a jury, or in pleading before them. He possessed in a high degree the power of grasping the strong points of his case. For trickery and cunning in the conduct of court trials he had only contempt, and hesitated not to call down upon the heads of those using such methods the vengeance of his disapproving honesty.

His prominence as a lawyer—of which mention will be made later on—soon brought him into active political life. The Whig party came into power in the State in 1854, and upon the Freesoil ticket Mr. Noble was elected a member of the general assembly from Clayton county, and was chosen speaker of the house for the regular session and also for the

extra session, held in 1855. In this important and trying position, he performed the duties of a presiding officer in an impartial manner, and won the respect and confidence of his colleagues as well as of the people of the State. It must be remembered that these were trying times. Mutterings of discontent and even disunion were heard on all sides. Events were then shaping themselves for the bloody war that came upon the Nation five years later. Amid these murmurings of discontent, and when the black cloud of war hovered over the Nation like a pall, his voice was raised in defense of the Union and in opposition to secession and rebellion. He hated and abhorred war, but he would not consent to peace purchased at the cost of honor. Hence he was found in the front rank of those whose voices were raised in opposition to the encroachments of slavery upon the people of the North. He believed in the Union, and would not consent to a dissolution. His positive views on this burning issue made him a delegate to the National Republican Convention at Chicago which nominated Lincoln in 1860. Of this honor he always felt a just pride. All through the dark days of the rebellion, he clung to his belief in the cause of union against secession, and when the southern confederacy went down with the surrender at Appomattox, no man rejoiced more heartily. The attempted impeachment of Johnson and the period of reconstruction, wrought in him a change, and caused him to unite with the Democratic party, with which party he affiliated to the close of his life.

It should be said here, however, that toward the close of the sixties he was called upon by a delegation from Dubuque headed by William B. Allison, and urged to accept the nomination for congress on the Republican ticket. He, however, declined the honor. His reason was, that he had through the failure of several parties with whom he was associated in a business venture, become responsible for a large debt. While he was not legally bound to pay the debt amounting to many thousands of dollars, his sense of honor would never permit him to allow his name to be dishonored by refusing to pay what he regarded as a moral obligation. He went

to work with increased vigor. He worked longer hours, and practiced the most rigid economy, till the last dollar was paid, both principal and interest. A most striking example of his high-souled integrity.

In 1874 he was elected judge of the tenth—now thirteenth—judicial district, and was re-elected in 1878, but resigned before the end of his term. On the bench his abilities as a lawyer were most apparent. He proved himself not only a strictly impartial judge, but careful and painstaking in all his judicial work. His long years of close application and constant toil prepared him for this field of high usefulness, and he shrank from no labor or responsibility incident to its duties. He won the respect and confidence of the bar and of all with whom he came in contact. He was twice nominated for supreme judge, declining the first, and to the second he paid no attention whatever.

After his resignation as district judge, he formed a partnership with Hon. Thomas Updegraff for the practice of law in McGregor, and carried on the work of the office during Mr. Updegraff's first two terms in congress. This partnership was dissolved about the year 1890, Mr. Noble retaining the business of attorney for the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway Co., which position he held at the time of his death. He was also associated during his residence at McGregor with the late Judge Hatch, and together they conducted some of the most important cases tried in the courts of Iowa. That he loved his profession is evidenced by the fact that he never missed a session of court in his county during his entire residence in Iowa. It seemed almost a thing impossible to hold court without him.

While his life-work was the law, he also took an active part in politics, and was regarded as one of the most able and convincing political speakers in the State. His work in politics brought him in touch with the leading men of his party, not only in his own State but in others as well. In politics as in law he hated dishonesty and trickery, and never would consent to the gaining of political advantage by questionable means.

His home life was such as to be admired. Coming to Iowa when settlers were few, the spontaneous, generous hospitality of the early pioneers became the rule of his every day life. At his home the "latch-string" was always out. He welcomed his friends with that hearty, cordial greeting which made them perfectly at home.

Three sons grew to manhood, two of whom have become leading lawyers in their States, while the other became a first-class locomotive engineer. He was also blessed with two highly cultivated daughters, who, together with the three sons and an adopted daughter, who was devotedly attached to him, compose a family of children of whom any father would be justly proud.

Resolutions of respect were adopted at the ensuing term of the District Court of Clayton county, upon which occasion eloquent eulogies were pronounced upon the life and character of Judge Noble, by Hon. Messrs. Samuel Murdock and James O. Crosby, who had been his associates at the bar and his intimate personal friends for fully fifty years. A like expression was adopted by the bar of Fayette county, the resolutions having been prepared by a committee of which Hon. L. L. Ainsworth was chairman. The press of his own county, as well as throughout the State, united in high testimonials to his upright character and usefulness as a citizen, and to his great ability as a jurist and statesman. It was felt that in his death the State had lost one of the best men who had been spared to this generation from pioneer times. Upon the assembling of the legislature in the extra session of 1897, a committee consisting of Hon. Messrs. T. J. Sullivan, Thomas F. Nolan and Samuel Mayne, was appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives to report resolutions expressive of the sense of public loss sustained in his death. The following preamble and resolutions were submitted by the committee and adopted by a rising vote:

MR. SPEAKER.—Your committee to draft resolutions on the death of Hon. Reuben Noble, beg leave to submit the following report:

WHEREAS, An all-wise Providence has removed from this transitory life JUDGE REUBEN NOBLE, full of years and honors, to a better and more certain existence.

WHEREAS, Judge Noble was one of the sturdy pioneers of early Iowa who was largely responsible for the commanding position our State occupies today among her sister States.

And, as he was not only identified with the early material development of our State, but was one of the influential pioneer law-makers and was an active member of that honorable organization, known as the Pioneer Law-makers of Iowa, at the time of his death; now therefore, be it

Resolved, as follows: That we recognize the commanding influence for good of such a positive and aggressive character as Judge Noble. That we fully appreciate and regret the loss to Iowa in the death of such a man. That we tender to his family our sincere and lasting sympathy for their irreparable loss. That we extend to his surviving associates in the Pioneer Law-makers' association of Iowa our sympathy and affection, and with the hope while the years go by and the little band of Iowa's early law-makers grows smaller and smaller that they may ever cherish and revere the memory of Judge Reuben Noble, of Clayton county, a man that lived in our county for nearly one-half a century without reproach. That the clerk of this house shall send to Mrs. Reuben Noble at McGregor, Iowa, a copy of these resolutions.

T. J. SULLIVAN,
THOS. F. NOLAN,
SAMUEL MAYNE.

AARON W. HARLAN, aged eighty-six years, who was one of the first men to sell goods in Keosauqua, where he kept a store in the early days of this town, but whose home has been at Croton, Lee county, for a long time, was a visitor here Tuesday and Wednesday. In the early part of 1841, Edwin Manning loaded a flat-boat at Keosauqua with pork and other saleable products, and started it to New Orleans, with Mr. Harlan in charge. It was a long float, but that city was reached without accident in the month of May. This was the only flat-boat that made the entire trip from out the Des Moines to the Crescent City. Uncle Aaron was a scout in the secret service of the United States during the war of the rebellion and also served in the Mexican war. He is still quite vigorous.—*Keosauqua Republican*, April 15, 1897.

THE IOWA BOARD OF EDUCATION.

BY HON. T. B. PERRY.

The Board of Education of the State of Iowa was created by Article 9 of the New Constitution of 1857. It was composed of one member from each of the eleven judicial districts in the State, and the governor ex-officio, the lieutenant-governor being the presiding officer and entitled to give the casting vote in case of a tie. The first election occurred on the 12th day of October, 1858, and the following members were chosen:

- 1st District, Charles Mason, four years.
- 2nd District, T. B. Perry, four years.
- 3rd District, George P. Kimball, two years.
- 4th District, D. E. Brainerd, four years.
- 5th District, Dan Mills, four years.
- 6th District, S. F. Cooper, two years.
- 7th District, T. N. Canfield, two years.
- 8th District, F. M. Connelly, four years.
- 9th District, O. H. P. Roszelle, two years.
- 10th District, A. B. F. Hildreth, four years.
- 11th District, I. J. Mitchell, two years.

The number of years service as indicated above was determined by lot. Judge Ralph P. Lowe, of Lee county, was the first governor elected under the New Constitution, on the 13th day of October, 1857, and his term of official service commenced in January, 1858, ending January, 1860. He was ex-officio the twelfth member. Oran Faville of Mitchell county was lieutenant-governor for the same period, and the presiding officer.

The first session was convened on Monday, the 6th day of December, 1858, in the senate chamber of what we now term the old capitol building, but what at that time was the new capitol, and continued in session until Saturday, December 25th. The principal work of the session was an ef-



Theodore B. Perry

HON. T. B. PERRY.

Member of the Iowa Board of Education, 1858-1862; State Senator, 24th and 25th General Assemblies.

fort to adopt the township district system instead of independent districts. The township system was, in the main, the conception of Horace Mann. In pursuance of the Act of July 14th, 1856, Governor Grimes appointed a commission of three to revise the school laws of Iowa, consisting of Horace Mann, of Ohio, Amos Dean, Chancellor of the State University of Iowa, and F. E. Bissell, who was afterwards Attorney General of the State; but on account of ill health Mr. Bissell did not take any part in the report made to the general assembly. The commission prepared a bill embracing the township system, and in an able report urged its adoption. On the 12th of March, 1858, the general assembly passed the bill as recommended by the commission. On the 9th day of December following, the supreme court in the case of the District Township of the City of Dubuque vs. The City of Dubuque, 7 Iowa 262, decided that this act was unconstitutional, for the reason that this power belonged to the Board of Education. The Board had only been in session three days when this decision was announced. It was not long in passing such a curative statute as would save the law to the people, and secure to them all rights under it so far as its authority extended.

There was more or less conflict of opinion among the members of the Board as between the township and the independent system. Judge Mason and I favored the independent, he being the more conservative in this respect. The other members were more or less friendly to the township system. A bill for an act entitled "An Act to provide a system of Common Schools," was passed at that session. It was drafted by Judge Mason as a compromise of more than one bill which had been introduced and discussed during the session. While it set forth the township system, it was a modification in this respect of the Horace Mann idea as expressed in the Act of March 12th, 1858. Though it has undergone many changes since that time, it is nevertheless the substance or ground work of what we still have of the township system. The most important change of the law since the passage of this Act, was that enabling the people

to organize independent districts, and to come out from under the township system; as they might determine. As a result, a large per cent of our school district organizations now are independent. While the township system has much to recommend it as applied to rural settlements, the independent district plan will doubtless continue to be preferred in many localities, more especially in cities and towns. I am aware that some of our ablest and most influential educators are still earnest advocates of the township system in all its fullness; but so long as the subject is left to be determined by those directly and most interested, the principle of self-government so firmly lodged in the affections of the people, will incline them to stand by independent local organizations, as being more direct, and better calculated to subserve their own immediate interests.

As to the membership of the first Board, a large per cent were teachers, which peculiarly fitted and qualified them as useful legislators on the subject of education and schools. Lieutenant-Governor Oran Faville was an intellectual and finely educated man, a successful teacher, a good parliamentarian, a superior presiding officer, and was highly esteemed by all. Dan Mills was the father of the Mills brothers so well known in Des Moines as enterprising publishers and prominent business men. D. E. Brainerd was the oldest member, and I the youngest. Mr. Brainerd was the humorist of the body, and could tell a good story. S. F. Cooper was a useful member. He had a good education and considerable experience in teaching, and was active and efficient in all that pertained to his duties as a member of the Board. T. H. Canfield was a Congregational clergyman, strong in his political convictions but of good intentions and kind impulses. Still, he was always satisfied to keep in line with his party in all its movements. F. M. Connelly was a young man who had just entered upon the practice of law. He was regarded by all as honorable and upright in every way, and one whose desire was to do right, fearlessly, and at all times. O. H. P. Roszelle had been a teacher, and, as I now recollect, county superintendent of Buchanan county. He was

an honest, earnest, unassuming man, and made a useful member. He was one of the most zealous advocates of the township system. A. B. F. Hildreth, then, and still, a resident of Charles City, was a thoroughbred Massachusetts Yankee, and never afraid to express himself in advocacy of what he believed to be right. He was a newspaper editor, but, from his manner and conversation, I always suspected that he had had a large experience as a teacher. He was not subject to any embarrassment while occupying the floor in advocating the township system. In fact, I do not call to mind now that I ever saw him laboring under what might be called embarrassment. But he was one of the most active, and a very useful member of the Board. I. J. Mitchell of Boone was an excellent young man. There was no more conscientious, fair-minded or worthy member of the Board. He had a red head, and when occupying the floor seemed to be terribly in earnest; and no man ever doubted his sincerity. Gov. Lowe was so well known in Iowa for his high character and useful life as not to require special notice at my hands, further than to say that he gave the subject of education his heartiest support, and was an active member of the Board. George P. Kimball was a teacher and very much in earnest in all his undertakings, which rendered him quite a useful member. He was a warm friend of the township system and gave it his hearty support. In conclusion of what I have to say of my personal recollections of the membership of the Board the first session, I shall speak of Judge Mason. He was clearly the ablest member. Besides his great intellect, he had the benefit of superior opportunities and advantages over most men. His education was of the first order. He graduated at West Point at the head of the class of 1829. In the same class Robert E. Lee was second and Joseph E. Johnston thirteenth. Jefferson Davis was twenty-third in the class of 1828. Charles Mason was Chief Justice of the Territorial Supreme Court of Iowa from 1838 to 1847, principal author of the code of 1851, and commissioner of patents under Franklin Pierce. He was favored with an excellent memory, was a first-rate lawyer, an able

jurist, upright and just in all things, and was not excelled in most attributes that make men great, excepting that he was not much of a public speaker. He enjoyed the most perfect confidence and respect of all the members.

Judge Mason undertook to make the trip from Keokuk to Des Moines via steamboat on the Des Moines river. I was at Ottumwa when the "Badger State" hove in sight, on which he was a passenger. This was the afternoon of Saturday, the 4th day of December, 1858. A cold wind was blowing from the northwest, and the boat stopped only a few minutes, and passed up the river; but it was not able to ascend higher than Eddyville, where it landed its passengers, unloaded its cargo, and at once returned down the river to escape the threatened "freeze up." Judge Mason completed his journey from Eddyville by stage coach, and I from Ottumwa in the same way. During the first session we roomed together at Dr. Shaw's, whose residence occupied the present site of the Catholic church across the street and immediately west of the old capitol building. I shall always appreciate the benefits resulting from being thus associated with Charles Mason.

The second session of the Board convened in the senate chamber of the capitol building on Monday, December 5th, 1859, and continued in session until its adjournment on Friday, December 24th. We had the same membership and officers as those of the first session, excepting that Judge Mason did not attend, and Josiah T. Tubby was secretary of the first and Thomas H. Benton of the second session. Toward the close of the first session the Board, for reasons supposed to be political, passed an act abolishing the office of Superintendent of Public Instruction which was then elective by the people, and quite ably filled by Maturin L. Fisher of Clayton county, and conferred the duties of the office upon the secretary of the Board of Education. It then became an appointive office. As will be seen, Mr. Fisher was legislated out of office and disposed of in short order to furnish a place for another. But as soon as it was discovered that he was fairly dead to the office, it was revived, and we ever since

have had the office of Superintendent of Public Instruction elective by the people ; however, Mr. Benton was well qualified and made an excellent officer as secretary of the Board as well as in the discharge of the duties of Superintendent of Public Instruction.

The subject under consideration would be incomplete, without appropriate reference to some of the leading school journalists of the State, who were conspicuous as reporters during the sessions of the Board. Samuel Storrs Howe, an aged Yankee teacher, well known in those days by all the public men of the State, was editor and proprietor of the *Literary Advertiser and Public School Advocate*. J. H. Sanders, of Sigourney, was publisher of the *Iowa Instructor*. He was a teacher of experience, and one among the brightest of the young educators of the State. Mills & Co., of Des Moines, were publishing the *Iowa School Journal*. Theirs was at that time one of the foremost publishing houses of the State. Frank M. Mills, of that firm, afterwards became state printer and state binder. C. C. Nestlerode, of Cedar Rapids, like some of the school journalists named, was agent for a school-book publishing house, and was present most of the time during the session in the interest of his house. He was a young man of more than ordinary intelligence and worth. In this connection, the name of General William Duane Wilson, Secretary of the Agricultural Bureau at that time, should not, by any means, be omitted. He was an old man of more than seventy years, whose face was ornamented on both sides by quite a rich growth of gray whiskers. He manifested an unbounded interest in agriculture, and never could understand why the Board should not make extensive provision for his favorite subject, among the first and foremost of its enactments. He continually labored for the founding of the "Agricultural College and Farm", and never would tire in conversation upon his favorite topic. He was a kind-hearted, good-natured old gentleman, and always enjoyed the friendship and esteem of the members of the Board.

The third session of the Board met Monday, December 2d, 1861, and adjourned Friday, the 20th day of the same

month. The new members were Philip Viele, successor of Judge Mason; D. C. Bloomer, successor of George P. Kimball; S. F. Cooper, re-elected; D. W. Ellis, successor of T. H. Canfield; Lyman N. Ingalls, successor of O. H. P. Roszelle; Daniel D. Chase, successor of I. J. Mitchell; Gov. S. J. Kirkwood, ex-officio; N. J. Rusch, president, ex-officio. All the other members were present the third session whose terms were for four years. Governor Kirkwood was quite an active and interested member. He was a man of sound judgment, and rather conservative in his views. He had been a member of the general assembly of the State of Ohio and of this State, and was well known as a legislator before becoming a member of the Board. Enough is known of his successful public career in this State not to require any further mention in that direction on this occasion. Lieutenant-Governor Nicholas J. Rusch, of Scott county, had not been in this country many years when he was elected to the state senate in 1857, for four years. He was a fair representative of the large German element we had in Iowa at that time. He was a man of intelligence, a good German scholar, and had succeeded in acquiring a pretty fair knowledge of the English language, considering the short time he had been a citizen of this country. He was impartial and just in his official action, and well regarded by all the members; but certainly was not the superior of Oran Faville as an educator and presiding officer.

Of the new members at this session I shall speak briefly. Philip Viele of Lee county was the Republican candidate, who opposed Augustus C. Hall for congress in 1856, the second time he was elected. He was quite an old man, a native of Holland as I now recollect, and died shortly after the close of the session of 1861. D. C. Bloomer of Council Bluffs, the successor of George P. Kimball, was the husband of Mrs. Amelia Bloomer, an estimable lady from whom the name "Bloomer Costume" was derived, and which was more prominently mentioned then than at the present time. He was a very excellent gentleman, indeed, alive to the cause of education, and an active and useful member of the

Board. D. W. Ellis of Clinton was a brother of the present State Senator Ellis of that place, and the successor of T. H. Canfield. He was a young man of commendable habits, of fair qualifications, and gave promise of a successful career in the life before him. D. D. Chase of Webster City, the successor of I. J. Mitchell, of Boone, afterwards judge of the district court for several years, was a young lawyer just starting out in life, and gave every promise of succeeding well as a public man, which afterwards was fully verified.

The last State Census Report sets forth that the third session of the Board was held in December, 1862. This is a mistake; it was in 1861, as I have hereinbefore fully shown. While it is true that there was an election of members of the Board in October, 1862, to succeed those elected in October, 1858, whose terms were for four years, still they did not meet in December, 1862, and a fourth session was not held. The cause of this failure, as I now recollect, was that the legislature failed to make an appropriation to defray the expense of the session. In March, 1864, the general assembly, in the exercise of a special power given it by the Constitution, discontinued the Board of Education, and no session ever was held since its final adjournment at the third session, December 20th, 1861.

Of the members I met during these three sessions, I only know of the following as still living, viz: Col. S. F. Cooper of Grinnell (now of California),; D. C. Bloomer, of Council Bluffs; A. B. F. Hildreth, of Charles City; D. W. Ellis, of Minneapolis. My best information is that the others, including all who in any way served as officers of the Board, have passed away. I shall always cherish their memory with becoming reverence.

ALBIA, IOWA, Sept. 1, 1897.

UNPUBLISHED MESSAGE BY GOV. LUCAS.

To the Honorable the Council and House of Representatives of the Legislative Assembly:

GENTLEMEN:—Having convened in pursuance of a special legislative act, of the 15th of January last, I conceived it to be my duty to lay before you such information, and to suggest for your consideration such subjects as may be required by the public interests to occupy your attention during your session.

By the 5th Section of "An Act to provide for the erection of a penitentiary and establish and regulate prison discipline for the same," approved, January 25, 1839, it was made the duty of the Governor to draw from the treasury of the United States, the sum of twenty thousand dollars, appropriated for the erection of Public buildings in the Territory of Iowa, by an act of Congress, approved July 7, 1838, and to pay the sum over to the superintendent to be used by him for the purchase of materials and pay of workmen and labor necessary to erect said buildings.

The whole of this appropriation has been drawn from estimates furnished by the superintendent, approved by the directors; and I presume it has been judiciously expended by them. I have not been officially informed as to the condition of the above work or the situation of the convicts that have been sentenced to the penitentiary; but presume the director will lay the whole facts specifically before you, during your session; which, in all probability, will require some immediate legislative action. I, therefore, respectfully invite your attention to this subject.

By the 4th Section of the "Act supplementary to an act to locate the seat of government of the Territory of Iowa, and for other purposes," approved 21st of January, 1839, it was made the duty of the Governor to draw from the treasury of the United States the sum of twenty thousand dollars, appropriated by Congress, in the 13th Section of the Organic

Law, approved June 12, 1838, to be applied by the Governor and Legislative Assembly to defray the expenses of erecting public buildings at the seat of government.

On an estimate furnished by the commissioner of public buildings, dated March 16, 1840, a requisition was made on the treasurer of the United States for the sum of fourteen thousand six hundred and forty dollars, which sum was received in a draft on the receiver of public monies at this place, made payable to my order. On the receipt of this draft, I endorsed it to Thornton Bayless, the treasurer of the Territory, who drew the money from the receiver, and paid it over to the acting commissioner of public buildings on proper vouchers produced by him.

On the 8th of June last, an estimate was forwarded me by the commissioner for the sum of five thousand three hundred and sixty dollars, being the balance of the appropriation of twenty thousand dollars.

This estimate was immediately forwarded to the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States with a requisition for a draft on the State Bank of Missouri or the receiver of public monies at this place. The draft on the last requisition has not yet been received. When received, it will be immediately paid into the hands of the treasurer of the Territory to be paid over to the acting commissioner of public buildings, on the production of proper vouchers by him. Thus, the whole of the funds appropriated by Congress for the erection of public buildings in this Territory, amounting to forty thousand dollars have been drawn for.

The appropriation of twenty thousand dollars, that has been applied to the erection of public buildings at the seat of government, with the aid of the funds that may be obtained from the sale of lots in the city of Iowa [Iowa City], if judiciously managed, will in my opinion be amply sufficient to complete the public building in accordance with the plan adopted by the commissioner and leave a surplus to be applied to other improvements. But to avail ourselves of all the advantages to be derived from the sale of lots in the city plat, it appears to me that the laws that relate to

the sale of said lots should be revised. I, therefore, respectfully suggest to the consideration of the Legislative Assembly the passing of a law fixing an average minimum price upon the lots, say from two to three hundred dollars per lot, and to authorize the commissioner to appropriate the aggregate sum of the whole number of lots by fixing upon each lot a specified price, grading the same in proportion to the relative and real value of each individual lot, so as not to reduce the aggregate sum of the whole below the aggregate minimum price fixed in the law. After having the lots thus valued, I would suggest the propriety of authorizing a public sale, when there might be a fair competition among purchasers—and after such sale to authorize the acting commissioner to sell at private sale under proper regulations all lots at the fixed price, that might not have been sold at the public sale. This method would, in my opinion, be an accommodation to individuals who might wish to procure lots for improvement. It would guard against individual speculations, and secure to the Territory all the benefit resulting from the public expenditures in the city. I would also respectfully suggest to the consideration of the Legislative Assembly a revision of the laws relative to the execution of title deeds to lots in Iowa City. It seems to me the more convenient method would be to require the certificate of final payment, signed by the acting commissioner to be filed in the office of the secretary of the Territory, and that on such certificate being filed, the secretary of the Territory should make out a deed under the seal of the Territory, to be signed by the executive and countersigned by the secretary, and that the original certificate should be filed in the secretary's office and a record of all deeds of conveyance kept therein.

On a visit to Iowa City on the 4th inst., I was much gratified to see the extensive improvements that have been made in that place within the last year. The basement story of the capitol is nearly completed, and in justice to the acting commissioner as well as the gentlemen who performed the work, I must say that so far as the work has progressed, it was done in the most substantial and workmanlike manner;

but, I learn that owing to the difficulty in procuring stone of sufficient size for cutting, it has been thought advisable by the commissioners to change the plan first contemplated of building the house of cut stone, and they have adopted another plan that will be less expensive, more expeditious and of equal utility, the particulars of which will be explained to you in detail by the commissioners, in their report that will be by them submitted to you.

I perceive by the Journals of Congress that a bill was reported by the committee on Territories, to the House of Representatives early in the session to enable the people of the Territory of Iowa to form a constitution and state government, and for the admission of such State into the Union. This bill was reported in connection with a bill extending the same privilege to Middle and West Florida. I have not yet learned the fate of these bills, but presume they will both pass together, and probably at the present session of Congress. I therefore suggest to the Legislative Assembly, the expediency of providing by law for the taking the sense of the people of this Territory on the subject of a convention at the ensuing annual election. It appears to me that there can be no objection to submitting this subject to the people for their consideration, as an expression of public opinion thereon through the ballot box would enable the ensuing Legislative Assembly to act understandingly, and in accordance with the expressed will of the people on this important subject.

I regret that I have not been able to procure a statement of the number of inhabitants of the Territory. The marshal of the United States informs me that the returns of the counties have not all been received by him, but they may be expected in a few days.

As far as I have heard we have doubtless doubled our population within the last two years, and we have now in the Territory many more inhabitants than will be contained in the official enumeration which was confined to the first of June—and before the necessary preliminary measures to prepare the way for an admission into the Union, I have no

doubt that our population will be sufficiently numerous to justify us in claiming our rank among the independent States.

That harmony may prevail in your deliberations and all your efforts be directed to the promotion of the public good, is the sincere wish of your obedient servant,

ROBERT LUCAS.

BURLINGTON, IOWA, July 14, 1840.

ARRIVAL EXTRAORDINARY!—We this week announce an event which in our judgment is of more importance than any that has happened since our city has had an existence. On the 20th instant our citizens were surprised by hearing the puffing of an approaching steamer. We need not speak of the astonishment caused by such unusual sounds—sounds which were for the first time heard on our peaceful river—nor of the many conjectures which were started as to the source from whence they proceeded. Our doubts were soon dispelled by the glorious reality, as the *Steamer Ripple* for the first time came dashing up the Iowa and landed at the ferry, which henceforth is only to be known by the more appropriate name of the Steamboat Landing. The hearty cheers which hailed the arrival, and the warm welcome which the captain, crew and passengers received from our citizens, showed that they appreciated the enterprise and determination which had originated and successfully carried out such an undertaking.—*Standard, Iowa City, June 24, 1841.*

MAHASKA COUNTY'S FIRST SCHOOL.

BY MRS. T. G. PHILLIPS.

Fifty years sounds like a long time to the young. The year 1843 seems to young people of today like a time away in the dim past. It doesn't seem so long ago to those who were young men and young women then. In 1843 a considerable tract of as fine land as the eye of man ever beheld (of which Mahaska county was a part) had been purchased by the U. S. government from the Indians. The Indians having on the first day of May of that year peaceably retired to lands farther west, this charming region was open to settlement by civilized white people. A number of families from the settlements near the Mississippi river, took advantage of this opportunity to make for themselves homes. That was before the day of telegraphs. There was not a railroad within hundreds of miles of this grand region. Yet somehow its fame had reached the ears of men and women away in the eastern States and in the middle States, whose hearts were brave, fortunes small and children many. Some of those honest, courageous, intelligent sons and daughters of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, packed their few household goods into wagons, bade farewell to the scenes of their childhood, the old familiar meeting-house, the school house, and with horses or ox teams slowly wended their way toward this lovely, but uncultivated garden. Some of these men left their families in the inhabited portions of the Territory whilst they staked out their claims and built log cabins. One room sufficed for a family, small or large. Some of these families even lived for a while in bark huts which had been left by the Indians, where beads were lying about on the ground in such quantities that children picked them up by the pint.

Kishkekosh is not found on the map of Mahaska county today. But that "deserted village" once had an existence

on the bluffs overlooking the classic Skunk. Near the deserted village was a deserted burying ground, where in shallow graves, in a sitting posture, were found skeletons of long ago Indians. The young doctor of the settlement, being archeologically inclined, helped himself to one of these skeletons—his purpose, no doubt, being the advancement of science. To the south and west of this village lay a stretch of country—prairie—interspersed with groves, the beauty of which, in its primitive state, no pen can truly describe. These groves of linden and drooping elms, bordered with a fringe of crab-apple and plum trees, just as God planted them, had a beauty all their own. This charming place chanced to be discovered by some of God's noblemen—brave, broad shouldered, manly men. The wives of these men were brave, too. The most of these pioneer men and women had been accustomed to the ordinary comforts of life, but they accepted the situation cheerfully. The men staked out their claims, built rude log cabins, broke their ground, made rails and fenced their fields, planted their crops and went to work to establish homes and provide for their families. These families brought their religion with them. In nearly every one of these rude cabins was erected an altar to the living God. When they gathered around their tables scantily supplied with coarse food, they bowed their heads and gave thanks. There were no houses of worship except "God's first temples," those beautiful groves. Nor was there on September 1st, 1844, a school house in all the region called Mahaska county.

Sometime in August of that year a young lady came to accept the offered shelter of a home in the family of a relative who had settled in that neighborhood. This young lady had taught two terms of school, and had ciphered as far as the single rule of three, knew a little about Kirkham's grammar, something about geography, could write a fair hand, had been first choice at spelling-schools, had been known to spell down a whole school. Heads of families in this primitive settlement straightway set about devising means whereby they might avail themselves of the services of the learned

young woman as instructor to their children. In order to accomplish this it was necessary to erect a school house. Although the official surveyors had not as yet designated the section lines, those men had guessed about where they were and had staked off their claims accordingly. Each sixteenth section having been donated by the government to the public for school purposes, the gift was in this case taken advantage of. This sixteenth section was covered mostly with timber, oak, elm and linden, linden predominating. Linden trees are not only beautiful to look upon, but easy to chop and split. One man who felt a particular interest in having a school house, and in this young girl also, went around and invited five or six others to join him in the enterprise. They readily acquiesced, set a day to commence, repaired to the woods on the border of the sixteenth section, taking with them axes, mauls, wedges, frows, augers, saws and broad-axes. They then proceeded to chop down some linden trees, not taking time to hew them, but built a cabin of round logs, leaving the bark on. They rived out boards of oak to cover it, putting weight-poles on to hold the boards in place. The floor, benches and writing-desk were made of puncheons. Puncheons are made of logs, split and made smooth on one side by hewing with a broad-axe. Some of these early settlers had become experts in hewing puncheons and riving clap-boards. This "temple of learning" was supplied with a sod chimney, a hearth long and wide, not made with stone or brick, but with rich black loam. A log was sawed out of one side of the house leaving a space eight or ten feet long, for the purpose of admitting light. One of these primitive carpenters with a pocket-knife whittled out sticks the proper length, and then placed them in an upright position at regular distances apart along this opening. Glass being a luxury not easily obtained, oiled foolscap paper was pasted over this improvised window-sash. In laying the foundation of this edifice the architects were particular to observe the points of the compass. A door was made by sawing out logs to the proper height and width. No shutters were provided, only

an opening looking toward the south. When the sun shone there was no trouble in telling when noon came.

In order that things might be done in a business-like manner articles of agreement were drawn up, which read something like the following:

ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT.

Articles of agreement made and entered into this, the 9th day of September, one thousand eight hundred and forty-four, between Semira A. Hobbs of the first part, and the undersigned subscribers of the second part, for the consideration of the compensation hereinafter named, the party of the first part agrees to teach a term of school embracing thirteen weeks, beginning on Monday, September 16th, one thousand eight hundred and forty-four. The party of the first part further agrees to keep good order and to the best of her ability teach the following branches, namely, spelling, reading, writing, arithmetic, geography and English grammar, for the sum of one dollar and twenty-five cents per scholar. The party of the second part for the faithful performance of the above promises, agree to pay the above named sum, to-wit, one dollar and twenty-five cents for as many as are attached to our names.

AARON COX, 6.

NATHAN COONTZ, 3.

BRANTLEY STAFFORD, 1.

POULTNEY LOUGHRIDGE, 5.

JOHN CUNNINGHAM, 3.

The 16th was ushered in with a charming morning. The sun rose bright and clear. Everything looked auspicious, even the corn blades and pumpkin vines looked glad. There was a hurrying and scurrying among the girls and boys to find their books and slates, which had been so long unused. Then this young girl teacher with six pupils, all members of the same family, with a basket of corn bread, some dried apple-pie and a bottle of milk, went tripping over prairie and through groves to the new school house a mile and a quarter away. How clean and white that puncheon floor looked, how mellow the light through that oiled paper window, how clear of any speck of ashes or soot that sod fire-place. Directly there could be seen coming from different directions, bearing their dinner baskets and books, groups of bright, healthy, happy-looking children. These children came supplied with such books as happened to be in their homes. Several kinds of spellers, almost as many kinds of readers

as there were children who could read. One of the larger girls brought an Olney's Geography and Atlas. That Atlas had a map in it called the "Map of the United States," but on that map was no Minnesota, no Dakota, no Nebraska, no Kansas, no New Mexico, nor Colorado, nor Wyoming, nor Idaho, nor Montana, nor Utah, nor Nevada, nor Arizona, nor any State called Washington or California. This map was in a way three-cornered. At the upper left hand corner, bordering on the Pacific ocean, was a rather narrow looking strip called Oregon Territory. Between the Missouri river and the Rocky mountains was a great almost blank space designated, "uninhabited," and supposed to be uninhabitable. That young girl teacher with such crude facilities, did her best to instruct those boys and girls in the rudiments of what is called a "common school" education. They were all well-behaved, obedient children, tried hard to learn and made creditable advancement. That was one of Iowa's typical autumns. The prairies and sloughs were covered with yellow and purple blossoms. The groves with their borders of sumach and hazel were aglow with all the shades of green and red and yellow and brown. Deer and rabbits scampered over prairie and slough, then darting into the thick groves were soon out of sight. Those pioneers were good marksmen, and along with their corn bread had venison and prairie chickens in abundance. One evening on returning from school the teacher was informed that the head of the family had killed a bear.

The warm, hazy Indian summer days lasted till away toward the last of November. But there came a time eventually when the sky was leaden, and the northeast winds brought flakes of snow, which would sift through the chinks in the roof and walls, would scurry around and find their way in through that open door. When the cold became severe one of the kind, thoughtful mothers sent a coverlet to hang over the door. There was no lack of fuel as there were great big chips, the result of that puncheon hewing, and plenty of dry sticks lying all about, which made splendid fires. That big dirt hearth, by much tramping of little feet,

in course of time sunk to the depth of eight or ten inches below the level of the floor, the edge of which made a convenient seat, where the scholars could keep their feet warm and at the same time study their lessons. The teacher occupied a more dignified seat, as a straight-backed splint-bottomed chair had been provided for her.

The last two or three of the thirteen weeks seemed to drag along pretty slowly, but neither teacher nor scholars ever hinted at such a thing as giving up. Those boys and girls had pluck. They kept warm if they could, but didn't whine if they were a little cold. They were used to cold houses, with only a fire-place, where the face would burn while the back would freeze. That was the order of things generally. There was not a stove of any kind in the whole community. The corn bread was baked in skillets with coals underneath and coals on the lid. The meat and turnips were boiled in pots set on the fire. The hospitality extended to strangers in those little log cabins would amaze the dwellers in Oskaloosa's homes today. Some of the boys and girls who were a part of that little group which composed that humble school, have joined the great majority. Those who remain are old people now—some are grandfathers and grandmothers. All are useful and respectable members of society, the kind we call the bone and sinew of the country. Great things have often grown from very humble beginnings. That crude log school house with its oiled paper windows, puncheon floor and sod chimney, its little band of scholars and undeveloped teacher, formed the nucleus around which have grown substantial school houses with all the facilities for teaching on nearly every section of land in Mahaska county. Not only the country district school, but high schools with scholarly teachers, and colleges with a score of professors of which Oskaloosa may justly be proud. That first school was a small affair, but was in keeping with everything else. Things generally were small and crude and humble.

About two and a half miles to the west of the spot whereon was located this much-mentioned school, there was

a very diminutive village. This village did as other villages are said to have done. It nestled, not in mountain nooks, by babbling brooks, but in the prairie grass. Each one of the fifteen log cabins seemed to be cuddled down in a nest of its own, trying to hide in a species of grass known as "blue joint." This village, when first seen by that much-mentioned teacher, on Saturday before the opening of that school, was only three months old, but had been christened "Oskaloosa." These first impressions of Oskaloosa were made from a view taken half a mile or more away. On coming into the town there was found to be in one of those little log cabins a store of general merchandise, with a piece of red flannel hung out by the door to designate the kind of business carried on within. When Oskaloosa was visited a month later dozens of frame houses had been built and occupied. Charles Purvine had built and was keeping a tavern (they did not call them hotels then) where the Birdsell House is now. A. J. Davis, the Montana millionaire, had a store on the north side of the square. William B. Street had a store on the west side. There were two blacksmith shops and one tailor shop—all this in October, 1844. The people who founded Oskaloosa were "rustlers." Most of the men and women who first occupied those little log cabins were intelligent, high-souled and full of pluck.

Oskaloosa's daughters of today may be more scholarly, but no more modest and praiseworthy than her girls of '44. The young men who came with little money but lots of brains, have made their way to fortune and fame. Some of the children and grandchildren of those early log cabin dwellers are today among Oskaloosa's most respected and influential citizens.

GEN. JOHN A. DIX owns a three thousand acre farm in Shelby county, in this State; William H. Seward owns a still bigger farm in Hamilton county, and Horatio Seymour has a good many forty and eighty acre lots up and along the valley of the Des Moines.—*Iowa State Register*, August 17, 1870.

LETTERS OF HENRY DODGE TO GEN. GEORGE
W. JONES.

EDITED BY DR. WILLIAM SALTER.

I.

The following is marked "Received June, 1832. Attended to in person." It was written in the midst of the Black Hawk war, four days after the battle of "Horse Shoe Bend," in which Col. Dodge with a small force had utterly routed and destroyed a murderous band of Sacs. It relates to a previous request from Col. Dodge "to become his aide-de-camp." Fort Union was near Col. Dodge's home, now Dodgeville, Wisconsin. Thomas McKnight was U. S. Agent of the lead mines at Galena, Illinois; afterwards a member of the Council of the First Legislative Assembly of Wisconsin Territory from Dubuque county, and voted to make Dubuque the capital of that Territory; in 1846 was Whig nominee for Governor of the State of Iowa, and defeated by Ansel Briggs, Democrat. Captain Stephenson commanded a Galena company.

FORT UNION, June 20th, 1832.

Mr. George W. Jones, Sinsinnewa Mound:

DEAR SIR:—I received your favor yesterday. I was much pleased to hear that Mr. McKnight would attend to your business in your absence. An express from the Blue Mound that is now with me states he left there at 9 o'clock; he came here, a distance of 16 miles in about 2 hours; he states he saw with all the people of the Fort from 50 to 100 Indians.

I have ordered all the mounted companies to this Frontier and have asked Capt. Stephenson to accompany me with his mounted men. It will give me much pleasure to have you with us. Excuse great haste; the express is in waiting.

I am with much regard and esteem your friend and obedient servant.

H. DODGE.

II.

Henry Dodge was appointed by President Andrew Jackson, Colonel U. S. Dragoons, and conducted the first U. S. Military Expedition into the Indian country west of Missouri

and Arkansas in 1834, and the first to the Rocky Mountains in 1835. Major Richard B. Mason, Lieut. Jefferson Davis, and other officers of the regular army were in his command. This letter refers to Colonel Dodge's sons, Henry Lafayette and Augustus Cæsar, to his half-brother Lewis F. Linn, United States Senator from Missouri, after whom Linn county, Iowa, was named, and upon whom Thomas H. Benton pronounced an eloquent eulogium in the United States Senate, December 12, 1843. Wm. H. Ashley was member of Congress from Missouri, 1831-3, an enterprising fur-trader in the Rocky Mountains, a man of distinguished character. William J. Madden married Louisiana, second daughter of Col. Dodge. He was a member from Iowa county of the First Constitutional Convention of Wisconsin.

CAMP JACKSON, NEAR FORT GIBSON,
April 18th, 1834.

Col. George W. Jones, Iowa (County), Michigan Territory:

DEAR JONES:—Your letter dated on the 3d ultimo I received yesterday; the letter you mentioned previously written has not yet come to hand. You are the only friend from whom I have heard except one letter from Augustus and one from Henry. I have neither had a line from Lewis Linn or Gen'l Ashley; their silence I am at a loss to account for; the mails have been badly managed in some way.

I am much gratified at the course taken by my friends in the mining country, and feel confident your activity and exertions have been greatly instrumental in obtaining this honorable testimonial of my fellow citizens and fellow soldiers, and should I not be appointed Governor of the new Territory it will not lessen the debt of gratitude I owe them. I will exert myself, and I flatter myself that my standing with the President is good. I know I understand the wants of the people of the mining country as well as their claims on the justice of the General Government, and that I understand the true character of the Indians on the Upper Mississippi as well as any other individual. What the policy of the Government may be I do not know; it may be considered that I am already provided for, and as there are many hungry applicants who have influential friends that may succeed, I am determined to return to the mining country at all events.

The profession of arms is a dull one in a time of peace, and suits those who have been for many years on a peace establishment. I find more treachery and deception practiced in the army than I ever expected to find with a body of men who call themselves gentlemen. My situation is unpleasant. Davis, whom I appointed my Adjutant, was among the first to take a stand against me. Major Mason and Davis are now two of my most inveterate enemies. The desire of these gentlemen appears to be to

harass me in small matters. They don't want to fight. If Mason would say fight, I would go to the field with him with great pleasure. Unless harmony and good feeling exist in a corps the public service cannot be promoted, and to undertake an expedition with such men I should run the risk of losing what little reputation I have acquired. There is no prospect of a war with the Indians. The Pawnees are a distant roving nation, without any fixed place of residence, and the greater part of them within the limits of the Mexican Government.

I am convinced the climate will not suit my constitution. For the last six years I have breathed a pure healthy air, and a change of climate I am sure will be unfavorable to my health. * * Was the United States engaged in war, I should prefer my present station to any that could be selected for me.

I hope you will succeed in your business as well as Mr. Madden to whom I desire to be remembered as well as your lady and family.

Most truly your friend,

H. DODGE.

III.

FORT LEAVENWORTH, October 1st, 1834.

Col. George W. Jones, Iowa County, Michigan Territory, (Via) Galena, Illinois:

DEAR COL.:—I arrived at this Military Post on the 27th. I was detained at Fort Gibson four weeks after my return from the expedition, holding Councils with the Indians who accompanied me from the Pawnee Pick country, and the Friendly Indians on our Southwestern Frontier. At the Councils the Cherokees, Creeks, Choctaws, Osages, and Senecas were represented; the wild Indians that attended were the Kiowas and Pawnee Picks. I have no doubt I have laid the foundation of a lasting peace between those Indians, as well as with the U. S., if the proper steps are taken on the part of the Government.

Perhaps there never has been in America a campaign that operated more severely on men and horses. The excessive heat exceeded anything I ever experienced. I marched from Fort Gibson with 500 men, and when I reached the Pawnee Pick village I had not more than 190 men fit for duty; they were all left behind sick, or were attending on the sick. The heat of the weather operated severely on the Dragoon horses, at least 100 were killed or broke down by the excessive heat. The men were taken with fever, and I was obliged to carry some of my men in litters for several hundred miles. Men of northern constitutions are not able to bear a march through the open country we marched over in the heat of summer. I was determined to effect the object of the Government, if possible. My orders were entirely of a pacific character. I was ordered not to fire on the Indians unless they fired on me, and to pursue that course best calculated to conciliate and make peace with them.

On reaching the Comanches I found I was not far from the residence of the Pawnee Picks. On leaving their village I found they were unwill-

ing to furnish me with a pilot, and I determined to go without one. When about to start, I fortunately met with an Indian from the Missouri that agreed to act as my pilot if I would give him a gun and some small presents that I was able to procure for him. My provisions were exhausted, and I was encumbered with near thirty sick men, a part of them I was obliged to carry in litters. I found I never could reach the hostile Indians with my sick, and determined to leave them, and make a forced march with my remaining disposable force. I ordered a breast-work of timber made, and left my sick under a guard of well men, and pushed forward with my command, intending to travel on my horses as long as I could and then to dismount my men and subsist on my horses until I found the Pawnee Pick Indians. I found them the third day after I left the Comanches. I succeeded in getting the son of a Judge Martin who had been recently killed near the Red river.

I hope the Government will be satisfied with my efforts. I have not heard from Washington since I made my official report. I should be glad to hear from you. I have thought of you and my friends in the mining country often. My attachment for that country is great, and at one time I thought it was doubtful if I should return. I had a severe attack of the fever; it lasted but three days on me, and I never left my horse except at night. During the continuance of the fever I took about 60 grains of calomel at two doses in succession, which broke the fever on me, but operated severely on my throat, and I am still debilitated; but my health is improving fast. I hope to see you all in the spring. Give my best respects to Mrs. Jones and my friends, and for yourself accept my best wishes for your health, prosperity and happiness.

H. DODGE.

INTEREST VS. COMMON SENSE.—There are none to be found save those who live on the proposed route, and seek for personal advantage, at every cost to the rest of the State, who will now urge so Utopian a project, as the "Dubuque and Keokuk railroad." The improvement of the rapids of the Mississippi obviates all necessity for such a road, and if built there would not be transportation sufficient on it to keep the grass from growing on the tracks.—*Iowa Democratic Enquirer, Muscatine, Oct. 20, 1849.*

ORGANIZING THE COUNTY OF IOWA.

The following act, passed by the legislature of the Territory of Michigan, is stated by Hon. Theodore S. Parvin to be the first official publication in which appeared the name "Iowa". It therefore becomes interesting and noteworthy as a "point of history". At the time of its passage both Iowa and Wisconsin were within the Territory of Michigan. (See Territorial Laws of Michigan, pp. 714-715.

Be it enacted by the Legislative Council of the Territory of Michigan, That from and after the first day of January next ensuing, all that part of the county of Crawford to which the Indian title has been extinguished, and embraced within the following boundaries, namely, beginning at the mouth of the Ouisconsin river, and following the course of the same, so as to include all islands in said river, to the portage between the said Ouisconsin and the Fox river, thence east until it intersects the line between the counties of Brown and Crawford, as established by the proclamation of the Governor of this Territory, bearing date the twenty-sixth day of October, one thousand eight hundred and eighteen, thence south with said line to the northern boundary of Illinois, thence west with said boundary to the Mississippi river, thence up said river, with the boundary of this Territory, to the place of beginning, shall form a county, to be called the county of Iowa.

SEC. 2. That Samuel W. Beale and Lewis Grignon, of the county of Brown, and Joseph M. Street of the county of Crawford, are hereby appointed commissioners to fix the seat of justice of said county of Iowa, and they are required to perform said duty on or before the first day of January next ensuing, at such place within said county, as to them may seem best calculated for the public interest, being first sworn to the faithful discharge of that trust; and so soon as they shall have come to a determination, the same shall be reduced to writing, and filed with the clerk of said county, whose duty it shall be to record the same, and the place thus designated shall be considered the seat of justice of said county.

SEC. 3. The commissioners appointed by the last preceding section of this act, shall be entitled to receive the sum of two dollars and fifty cents each per day, for every day necessarily employed by them in the execution of the duty aforesaid; to be paid out of the first moneys that may come into the treasury of said county.

SEC. 4. That in the event of said commissioners being prevented, from any cause whatever, from performing the duty required of them by this act, then in that case, the seat of justice is hereby temporarily established at Mineral Point, in said county.

SEC. 5. That there shall be two terms of the county court of said county, annually; the first term shall commence on the first Monday of June, and the second term shall commence on the first Monday of December in each and every year.

SEC. 6. That the taxes authorized by the act entitled "An act to regulate the assessment and collection of Territorial taxes," approved December thirty, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-six, are hereby remitted in favor of said county of Iowa, and the collection and disbursement of the same shall be conformable to the provisions contained in the eighth section of the said act.

SEC. 7. That all suits, prosecutions and other matters, now pending in the circuit court of the United States, for the county of Crawford, or before the county court of said county, or before any justice of the peace within the same, shall be prosecuted to final judgment and execution, and all taxes heretofore levied, and now due, shall be collected in the same manner as if the said county of Iowa had not been organized.

Approved October 9, 1829.

ANNALS OF IOWA.

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

PRESIDENT GRANT'S DES MOINES ADDRESS.

In our effort to present in the last ANNALS the speech of Gen. Grant at the reunion in Des Moines of the Army of the Tennessee, September 29, 1875, the only printed copy at hand was that which contained errors wholly misrepresenting what the great soldier said on the subject of education. This was hastily compared with a photographic copy of the original manuscript in pencil—many of the words in which were quite faded and obscure—and was presumed to be correct. (It is due to the writer of these lines to state, that during the time this address was a subject of controversy he was in a distant territory and knew nothing of it.) The worst errors were not corrected, and in that form it went to our readers. But in all undistributed copies, however, corrected pages have been substituted for those containing the errors, and corrected pages will be included in the last number of this volume, with directions to the binder for their proper insertion. No copy of THE ANNALS which is bound should contain an imperfect copy of this speech. In giving currency to this mutilated copy of the document we erred in a numerous and distinguished company. Most of the published reports have contained several errors; indeed, it has been stated that the only correct copy extant is the President's manuscript and its reproduction by photography. In another place we print an explanatory article from the pen of Mr. L. F. Parker, the distinguished Professor of History in Iowa College. To Prof. Parker is due the credit of making a stout fight for the acceptance of what President Grant intended to say, and in fact, what he really said. In his able monograph on "Higher Education in Iowa," which was published by the Bureau of Education (Washington, D. C., 1893),



PRESIDENT U. S. GRANT.

and which, by the way, ought to be found in every public library in the State, Prof. Parker presents (pp. 105-108) a clear and concise history of this curious affair. This account is illustrated with a fac-simile of the address, which we understand to have been approved by President Grant, an exact copy of which will be found in this number of *THE ANNALS*. He also printed a similar article in *The Iowa Historical Record*, Vol. II, pp. 123-128. The errors which appeared in this address upon its first publication were made wholly unintentionally, late at night, or rather "in the small hours," by reporters who were worn out with hard work. Then came the somewhat acrimonious controversy, some people claiming one construction, and some another, of the President's simple remarks. As printed, they were of such a nature, owing to very slight changes, as to seem to be an attack upon the idea of public education higher than the common schools—something never entertained by their author. He was little given to correcting or challenging the truth of statements regarding himself, and so the matter went on until his attention was called to it by Gov. Kirkwood, as stated by Prof. Parker. In printing from type the revised pages for insertion in *THE ANNALS*, we have followed the President's manuscript as closely as possible, making only some very slight changes in unimportant words, which seemed to be necessary.

HITHERTO UNPUBLISHED.

In another place we print a Message of Gov. Robert Lucas to the territorial legislature which convened in extra session at Burlington, July 14, 1840. It may possibly have appeared in some territorial newspaper of that day, but if so we have been unable to find it. The probabilities would be in favor of its having been so published, but at this time we know of no copy save that in the official manuscript of the legislative journal which was filed in the office of the Secretary of State. The journal of that extra session has never yet been published—the only instance of a neglect of that

kind since the organization of Iowa Territory. We therefore treat it as an unpublished public document, which ought to be found in print in the public libraries of this State. It will not only interest the reader at this time, but it throws much light upon the condition of things in Iowa Territory fifty-seven years ago. It shows the watchful care and keen interest taken by our earliest Iowa Governor in securing not only a penitentiary in which criminals could be confined and punished, but a capitol for the convenience of the various public offices. He also considers the matter of the sale of lots in Iowa City, the proceeds from which were to come into the treasury of the Territory. The question of the admission of the Territory as a State was also a prominent one before the people, and this also was discussed by the Governor. Incidental to this he expresses his regret that he has not been able to procure a statement of the number of inhabitants of the Territory. He had no doubt, however, that the number was sufficient to entitle it to be enrolled in the list of States. This paper, on many accounts, is one of much historical interest.

AN IMPORTANT ACQUISITION.

During the years 1838-44 there was published in the city of Philadelphia, in three volumes, folio, a unique work entitled "History of the Indian Tribes of North America, with Biographical Sketches and Anecdotes of the Principal Chiefs. Embellished with 120 portraits from the Indian Gallery in the Department of War, at Washington. By Thomas L. McKenney, late of the Indian Department, Washington, and James Hall, Esq., of Cincinnati." Each of the three volumes had a large frontispiece, representing respectively, "A War Dance," "Hunting the Buffalo," and "Encampment of Piekan Indians near Fort McKenzie." This work has long been out of print, only occasionally coming to light in the catalogues of dealers in second-hand books. A fine edition in three volumes, royal octavo, with some minor changes in the engravings, was also issued in

1855. Copies of each of these editions with less than the original number of engravings are occasionally offered for sale; but whether they have been reprinted, or have simply suffered mutilation, we are unable to state. The Historical Department has fortunately obtained a copy of each of the genuine first editions of this great work. The octavo edition was acquired three or four years ago—the original folio copy quite recently. Curiously enough, the last was offered for sale in a catalogue issued by a dealer in fine and second-hand books in Liverpool, England, for a mere fraction of its original cost, and was promptly purchased. This edition was not dated, but the date of its publication is well known. It is an especially valuable addition to the growing Indian Collection in the Historical Department, from the fact that it contains twenty-five to thirty portraits of Indians belonging to tribes living within the present borders of this State. The portraits in both editions are very fine lithographs colored by hand. That they are excellent likenesses of the Indians whose names they bear is vouched for by the authors. They are full of life, representing the Indians in all the glories of paint, feathers, beads and blankets. It requires bright colors to show these chieftains and braves in their gala dresses. Some of the portraits are exceedingly striking, especially those of Blackhawk, Keokuk, Wapello, Mahaska, and his wife, Rantchewaime, Kishkekosh and Powesheik, as well as several of lesser note. “In the good time coming,” doubtless many of these will be reproduced in oil, for the portrait gallery which will be one of the attractive features of the Iowa Historical Building. As data for such an undertaking they are simply invaluable.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PIONEER LAW MAKERS.

Prior to 1896 the State legislature made provision for the publication of the Proceedings of our Pioneer Law Makers Association at each of the biennial reunions. But at the first session of the 26th General Assembly the bill making this provision was lost. At the late extra session, however,

the proposition was renewed and passed. It is now incorporated in the new Code of Iowa, providing for the publication of twelve hundred copies of the proceedings of each reunion. At the proper time, and possibly in the belief that the proceedings would not be published in pamphlet form, the Secretary failed to put them into proper shape for publication. The consequence was, that when the legislature finally provided for their publication the copy was still unprepared and its materials scattered. At this juncture the matter was taken up by Hon. B. F. Gue, the present Secretary of the Association, who proceeded to collect the necessary data for the pamphlet, so far as it can be accomplished at this late day. It is believed that the more important materials were gathered up, though at least one of the addresses was lost, and the general proceedings doubtless very much abridged. Mr. Gue is entitled to the credit of putting them into the best possible shape, though some of the important and highly interesting features of the preceding volumes are necessarily omitted. The pamphlet will possess especial value from the fact that it presents in full the able and interesting, as well as historically valuable, address of Hon. John A. Kasson upon the exciting struggle for the erection of the State capitol. The addresses of Hon. Elijah Sells and Hon. Washington Galland are also interesting and possessed of much historic value, as well as the tributes to the memory of U. S. Senator James F. Wilson, Judge George G. Wright and Gen. Ed Wright. It is to be regretted that the volume is not as full and complete as its predecessors, but that is due to the causes we have set forth. Provision having been made for their regular publication, it is believed that future volumes will equal in interest and value those of 1886-94.

THE PASSENGER-PIGEON.

Forty years ago, when the writer came to Iowa, and for several years thereafter, Passenger-pigeons were often seen in this region in immense flocks. In fact, there were points in our State where these birds nested—"pigeon-roosts," as

they were familiarly called. These birds existed in veritable myriads, migrating in vast flocks, which sometimes reached across from the eastern to the western horizon. Their habitat extended from the Atlantic to the eastern base of the Rocky Mountains, and from the Southern States to the 62d parallel of north latitude. Alexander Wilson once observed a flight of these birds near Frankfort, Kentucky, which was several strata deep, extending from right to left as far as the eye could reach. He timed the flight with his watch for an hour, and the living torrent was still rushing on. Three hours later the flight still continued with no apparent diminution. Wilson estimated this great aggregation at not less than two thousand two hundred millions of birds! Persons whose memories run back thirty or forty years will recollect how some of these great flocks almost darkened the sky. But for many years it has been understood that this species was practically extinct—exterminated by men who killed them at their nesting-places, or decoyed them into nets during their migrations. The defenseless young pigeons were also destroyed in untold thousands by predatory animals and birds. Recently, however, we have received letters from parties who insist that the Passenger-pigeon still continues to visit certain western localities. Doubting the truth of these statements, the writer addressed a letter to Prof. Robert Ridgway, Curator of Birds in the National Museum at Washington, D. C., who is one of the foremost living authorities upon all questions relating to ornithology. His reply is given elsewhere. It will be inferred from what he says, that while the species is certainly extinct over much the greater part of the country which it once inhabited, there are possibly regions where it still exists. Whether this is true or not, the apparent wiping out of a species so numerous throughout so wide an area and at so recent a period, is one of the startling facts of natural history.

AN ECHO FROM SPIRIT LAKE.

The Fort Dodge Chronicle has of late been publishing extracts from a diary left by the late Major William Williams of Fort Dodge, the distinguished pioneer who commanded the Expedition to Spirit Lake against the Indians in 1857. This same work, it has been stated to us, was published many years ago, or portions of it at least, in *The Fort Dodge Northwest*. Among a great deal of truthful and interesting matter which is historically valuable, "the old Major" states that an effort was made by Hon. Messrs. John F. Duncombe and Samuel Rees to induce the State legislature to pay the Spirit Lake soldiers for their patriotic and humane services, and that this effort was opposed by Col. John Scott of Story county and Charles Aldrich of Hamilton county—and the parties named are characterized by sundry descriptive words more forcible than polite. These reflections upon Scott and Aldrich, were, as we are informed, included in the previous publication of Major Williams' diary, though we did not happen to see them. As Major Williams died many years ago we shall not further characterize this statement than by setting it down as an error—a slip of the pen made easy by the political acrimony pervading northwestern Iowa in those days. Col. John Scott and Charles Aldrich were radical republicans—"black republicans," as anti-slavery men were called in those days—while Major Williams was a democrat of the school of James Buchanan. That sufficiently explains the feeling with which he wrote. Except as it may be possibly resurrected at some future time, and found uncontradicted, this statement is of little consequence. Had it come to the knowledge of Hon. John F. Duncombe we do not believe he would have consented to this recent publication, but the fact that his sons—grandsons of Major Williams—have seen fit to present it to their readers, would seem to justify this word of absolute contradiction. When Mr. Aldrich came to Webster City to establish *The Freeman* newspaper, in May, 1857, the men of the expedition were about town still suffering from the effects of frost-bites and severe

exposure. The people were mourning the loss of the gallant Capt. J. C. Johnson, who had been frozen to death on the return march. One of the first things to which Mr. Aldrich turned his attention was procuring and publishing in *The Freeman* an excellent account of the expedition, from the pen of Sergeant Harry Hoover—the same that appears in Mrs. Gardner-Sharp's book, but curiously enough credited to another paper. He also secured the erection of a beautiful brass tablet in the court-house at Webster City some years ago, which names and thereby compliments Major Williams, with other Spirit Lake heroes. Mr. A. was a member of the commission which erected the imposing and beautiful monument at Lake Okoboji, in 1894. To him was assigned the work of preparing the inscriptions for the four large tablets, and at his suggestion, and by his insistence, a complete roster of the command of Major Williams fills the large tablet on the west side. At the request of Mr. Aldrich Gov. Carpenter wrote for these pages a most appreciative biographical sketch of Major Williams. That Mr. Aldrich has done everything in his power during these forty years to honor and reward the officers and men of that expedition is well known in northwestern Iowa, and he is unwilling that this slander shall longer go without contradiction. Otherwise, enterprising journalists, and possibly grandchildren farther removed, may hereafter unearth it and publish it again and again. And then, there is the further danger that the story may increase in length, breadth and thickness, as such things sometimes do. As to Col. John Scott, the Senate Journal of 1860 shows that he attempted to amend the bill so as to secure the money appropriated to the men who carried the rifles and shot-guns, instead of allowing it to go to claim agents and speculators. On page 370 of the Journal a committee of which he was chairman, said in their report "the passage of the bill is warmly commended." The roll-call on its passage (p. 373) shows that Col. Scott voted in the affirmative. There were but two votes against it. The House Journal (p. 171) re-

cords its passage by a unanimous vote of that body. The fact is, *everybody favored and nobody opposed this meritorious bill* (House File No. 60).

SLAVERY LEGISLATION IN IOWA.

There was presented in the last number of *THE ANNALS* (pp. 145-147) "an act to regulate Blacks and Mulattoes," which was passed by our first Territorial legislature and approved by Gov. Lucas. We can find no law by which it was ever directly repealed, but it would seem practically to have been a dead letter from the first. In the changed sentiment of these times such a law would be universally regarded as nothing less than infamous. It is a veritable curiosity, and might well be included by Dr. Shambaugh among his "materials for history." Men are now living to whom such laws were familiar—for they existed in many Northern States; yet, to the thoughts and feelings of the generation which now rules this country, the impulses which inspired them are as far removed and as much out of date—as foreign to the thoughts of the people—as the events which led to the war for American Independence. The great statesmen who became famous—whose names were "familiar as household words"—from their warfare upon slavery, are but seldom mentioned in these days. Their names are well-nigh forgotten by the mass of their countrymen, and their patriotic and humane labors, which were deemed herculean in their day, only possess interest to the students of history. Mould is fast gathering upon their memories. Even the god-like Charles Sumner is seldom referred to, and the great edition of his speeches and writings, which he supervised with such scholarly care, receives little attention in the public libraries.

A VALUABLE DONATION.

Hon. Theodore S. Parvin quite recently sent to the Historical Department thirty bound volumes of early Iowa newspapers which thus become the property of the State.

The majority of these papers were published in Muscatine, from 1842 to 1849, comprising volumes of *The Herald, Journal, Democratic Enquirer, Review* and *Courier*. There are four volumes of *The Bloomington Herald*. Bloomington was the early name of that city—but it was changed to Muscatine by order of the district court, in 1849. Several volumes bear the names of Burlington, Iowa City and Des Moines, and all of them appeared before 1865. This is one of the most valuable contributions yet made to the resources of the Historical Department. These ancient journals throw a flood of light upon even earlier Iowa history than the dates of their publication, for most of the distinguished men of our territorial days were still living and often heard from through their columns. Even a very casual examination shows that they contain “materials for history” which can be found nowhere else. Many of these valuable facts and articles we expect will reappear in the pages of THE ANNALS, and thus become accessible in the public libraries of the State. This gift is only one of the characteristic acts of the useful life of Mr. Parvin, who has done more in the direction of preserving Iowa history than any other man of his time. Even now, in his eighty-first year, with multiplied labors on his hands, he is as alert in collecting these precious materials, and as judicious and earnest in placing them where they will do the most good, as at any period of his life.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION,
WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 13, 1897. }

DEAR MR. ALDRICH:—Your favor of the 10th inst. requesting information regarding the present status of the Passenger-pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*), has been received.

In reply, I would say that while wild pigeons are occasionally reported from different parts of the country, many of the supposed occurrences have, on investigation, been proven erroneous, and there can be no question that the species is quite extinct over much the greater part of the area once inhabited by it. The wild pigeon mentioned by your Kansas City correspondent is an entirely different bird, belonging in fact to a distinct genus. It is the Band-tailed Pigeon, (*Columba fasciata*.) which ranges from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific coast and from British Columbia to Nicaragua.

Very truly yours,

R. RIDGWAY, Curator Dep't Birds.

NOTABLE DEATHS.

COL. CONDUCE H. GATCH was born near Milford, Ohio, July 25, 1825; he died at Des Moines, July 1, 1897. The family originally came from Prussia, settling in Maryland in 1725, and afterwards in Virginia; but in 1798 his grandfather liberated his slaves and removed to the vicinity of Cincinnati, Ohio. The subject of this notice grew up to the age of seventeen on his father's farm, attending school during the winters and laboring the rest of the year. After reaching that age he took a regular course of study at Augusta College, Kentucky. He studied law at Xenia, Ohio, and was admitted to practice at Columbus in 1848. He settled at Kenton, where he resided until the outbreak of the rebellion, in the meantime serving as prosecuting attorney of his county and as State Senator. Originally a Whig, he early became a Republican, and was a delegate in the national convention which nominated John C. Fremont for the presidency in 1856. In 1861 he raised a company for the 33d Ohio Infantry, of which he was commissioned captain. He participated in the battles of Nashville, Murfreesboro, Shelbyville and Huntsville, and during the latter part of his service was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel of the 135th Ohio Infantry. He came to Iowa in 1866, making his permanent home in Des Moines. He was elected to the State Senate in 1885, and was re-elected four years later. Of this body he became one of the most industrious, useful and influential members. Among the measures which he introduced and with which he was conspicuously identified during his legislative service—all of which found their way into the statute books—were those for the improvement of the capitol grounds, the founding of the Historical Department, an act reducing the number of peremptory jury challenges by defendants in criminal cases to the number allowed by the State, and the general law promoting the organization of public libraries in cities and towns. In regard to this last measure it is but justice to state that he had the active aid in its preparation of Judge George W. Wakefield, of Sioux City. The burthen of securing its passage devolved upon Col. Gatch. The chief point in this law was the placing of public libraries under the control of trustees instead of the city councils. It was a decided innovation, a most excellent measure, and of far-reaching importance to the State. He performed a large share of the work incident to the preparation and introduction of the revenue bill, which came from the Committee of Ways and Means in the Twenty-fourth General Assembly. This passed the Senate but failed in the House. He also introduced and secured the passage of several excellent measures of minor importance. But the bill considered by himself the most meritorious of all introduced by him while in the legislature, was one exempting the homestead from taxation to the value of \$1,000, which, though presented at each of his four successive sessions, and most earnestly advocated, failed each time of receiving the favorable consideration of the Senate. As a Methodist he had been twice a delegate to the General Conference—1876 and 1880—and was prominent in church and Sabbath-school work all his mature life. During his residence in Des Moines he attained a commanding position as a lawyer. His record in the army, at the bar, and as a legislator, was honorable and creditable in the highest degree. Stepping down and out of public life made little difference in the career of this useful citizen and eminently Christian gentleman, for as long as he lived he was daily called upon to put his hand to some good work, in the furtherance of measures of public improvement, education or charity. His noble deeds only ended with his life.

HENRY CLAY BULIS, who was intimately connected with the public affairs of our State for over forty years, died at Decorah, September 7, 1897. Dr. Bulis was born in Clinton county, New York, November 14, 1830. His

boyhood days were spent on a New England farm, and he later followed the profession of teaching for about six years. In 1854 he took a degree from the Woodstock Medical College, Vermont, and the same year removed to Decorah, Iowa, where he followed the practice of medicine for a longer period than any other physician in Northeastern Iowa. In 1865 Dr. Bulis was appointed examining surgeon for pensions, which office he held ten years. In 1876 he was chosen president of the Iowa State Medical Society, the highest honor within the gift of the profession in his State. In 1887, after further study, he took a degree from the Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia. Dr. Bulis held various public offices the greater part of the time from his twenty-fifth to his sixty-fourth year. Few men have had the confidence and esteem of their fellow citizens expressed in so marked a way for so long a time. In 1856 he was appointed commissioner for the sale of intoxicating liquors by Judge Reed. In 1858 he became the first county superintendent of schools in Winneshiek county. In 1863 he was elected county supervisor. In 1865 he was elected to the State Senate, and after a term of four years was re-elected. While in the Senate he served as chairman of the committee on the State University. He took an active part in founding that institution and was always its friend and warm supporter, serving as regent for eighteen years and then declining a re-election. In 1871 he was elected lieutenant-governor of Iowa. In 1876 President Grant appointed him a member of the Sioux Commission and in the very important work of that commission he took a prominent part. In 1878 President Grant appointed him special United States Indian agent, and in 1883 he was appointed special agent for the General Land Office. Dr. Bulis was prominently before the Republican District Convention as a candidate for Congress in 1889, but after sixty ballots withdrew in favor of Hon. J. H. Sweeney. He served as mayor of Decorah, 1880-81, and again, 1889-90. In 1890 he was appointed postmaster of Decorah, serving four years. He was a member of the Iowa State Historical Society and for several years one of its curators.

COL. ROBERT M. LITTLE died in Chicago, January 24, 1897. He was a Virginian by birth, but removing to Davenport, Iowa, about the year 1854, was long identified with that city, and for many years one of its best known and most prominent citizens. A man of great energy, activity and public spirit, he was always foremost in aiding every plan that promised to further the welfare of the city. Realizing that the town was practically at the mercy of the destructive element of fire, he aroused public sentiment and succeeded in organizing an efficient, well-equipped and well-housed fire department, of which he was the able chief for many years. He was well known in newspaper circles, and for years city editor of *The Davenport Gazette*. At the time of the Mormon troubles, he organized a company of militia called the "Sarsfield Guards," which stood ready for active duty. But its services were not required. At the breaking out of the rebellion in 1861, he was ready for the emergency and at the call for troops offered Gov. Kirkwood a drilled company of which he was captain, consisting in part of the old "Guards." This became Co. B of the Second Iowa Infantry and did gallant service. Captain Littler soon rose to the rank of Major, and in 1865 to that of Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel. He was wounded at Shiloh and as a result lost an arm. After the war his energies were directed into a new channel, that of the farm and dairy. He acquired the reputation of being the best informed man in the country regarding dairy products, and was instrumental in securing much needed legislation against the sale of imitation butter. His knowledge in this line received due recognition, and he was called to the secretaryship of the Chicago Produce Exchange, which responsible position he filled most acceptably

for many years and until his death. (This notice should have appeared in THE ANNALS for April, 1897.)

MRS. MARIA JONES HAY, daughter of Gen. George W. Jones, was born at Sinsinawa Mound, Wisconsin, April 26, 1839; she died at Dubuque, Iowa, June 21, 1897. She was educated at the Academy of the Sisters of Charity, B. V. M., near Dubuque, completing her studies at Patapsco, Maryland, and at the schools of the Misses Anables in Philadelphia. She received a thorough musical education and was especially devoted to the art. Returning to Dubuque, she became the organist of the Catholic Cathedral, organizing and conducting the large choir. She was married to Dr. Walter Hay of Chicago, May 30, 1872. Mrs. Hay then became organist and conductor of the choir of St. John's Catholic church in that city. She took an active part in musical entertainments in the cause of Catholic charities both in Chicago and Dubuque. She returned to Dubuque in 1890, where she resided up to the time of her death. She organized in Dubuque "The Sherman Circle," a literary and philanthropic society, of which she was the first president, and was also an active member of "The Dubuque Ladies Literary Association." Mrs. Hay was a lady of rare culture and intelligence, as noted for her brilliant social qualities as for her active charities and great public usefulness. She was riding out with two of her lady friends when the horse ran away while descending one of the steep bluffs. Mrs. Hay was thrown from the carriage and instantly killed. Her death was mourned as a public loss.

MRS. JUDGE GEORGE G. WRIGHT was born in Saratoga county, New York, August 15, 1820; she died at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. H. E. Stone, in Sioux City, June 27, 1897. Her maiden name was Hannah Mary Dibble. She came to Van Buren county, with her father's family, in 1837, and on October 9, 1843, was married to the late Hon. George G. Wright, who became one of the most distinguished of Iowa jurists and statesmen. Her father, Hon. Thomas Dibble, was one of the leading men of Van Buren county. He was elected to our second Constitutional Convention, which met at Iowa City, May 4, 1846, and held the responsible office of County Judge under the old law which was changed in 1860. He had also served in the New York legislature before coming to Iowa. Judge and Mrs. Wright celebrated their golden wedding in 1893. It was a notable gathering of pioneer citizens from all parts of the State. Mrs. Wright traveled extensively in Europe, with some of her children, about the year 1889. She was a leading member of the Red Cross in Iowa in war times, active in all good work for the health and comfort of the soldiers, a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Women, and President of the Board of Managers of the Women's Christian Home, Des Moines. She was a woman of marked intellectual power, highly intelligent, and an independent thinker.

PROF. J. C. GILCHRIST, was born in Allegheny City, Pennsylvania, in 1831, of Scotch parentage; he died at his home near Laurens, Iowa, August 12, 1897. He was well known throughout the State as an educator. For forty-three years of a busy and active life he had been closely connected with the educational work of this and other States. Coming to Iowa in 1871, he has since been identified with the school work of Mason City, Sioux City and Algona. His efforts to secure the establishment of the Iowa State Normal School at Cedar Falls were untiring, and when the Sixteenth General Assembly founded the institution he became the principal, retaining the position for ten years. He gained a wide reputation as a teacher, especially interested in normal schools and institute work, and also as a lecturer and writer on educational topics. Although Prof. Gil-

christ was ordained as a Methodist clergyman, and some of his time was devoted to the church, his main interests and his best work were in the field of education.

CAPT. WILLIAM L. HENDERSON was born in Old Deer, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, May 23, 1832; he died at Riceville, Iowa, June 21, 1897. He was a brother of Col. D. B. Henderson, the distinguished member of Congress from the Dubuque District, and came to this country when he was fifteen years old. At the outbreak of the civil war he enlisted in Co. C., 12th Iowa Infantry, re-enlisting in December, 1863. He was not mustered out of the service until January 30, 1866. He bore his part in the battles of Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Vicksburg, Nashville, Tupelo and Fort Blakeley, besides participating in many skirmishes and less important battles. He occupied a high place in the respect and esteem of his old comrades in arms, many of whom attended the funeral at Postville, June 22. The flag with which his casket was draped—under the folds of which he had marched and fought—was presented to the 12th Infantry when it left Iowa for the front. The papers of Howard county paid high tributes to his memory.

MRS. GRACE SLAGLE JUNKIN was born in Fairfield, Iowa, September 8, 1880; she died at Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland, May 24, 1897. She was the daughter of Hon. Christian W. Slagle of Fairfield, a distinguished pioneer lawyer, whose settlement in Fairfield dates back to 1843. She was the wife of Charles M. Junkin, one of the well-known editors and proprietors of *The Fairfield Ledger*. Mr. Junkin is the son of William W. Junkin, a leading early Iowa editor, with whom he is still associated in the management of *The Ledger*, now one of the oldest newspapers in Iowa. Mrs. Junkin had an acquaintance which extended to every county in the State. She was an exceedingly bright and intelligent woman, wholly domestic in her tastes, sincerely esteemed for her gentleness and amiability by a wide circle of devoted friends—

“A woman of her gentle sex the seeming paragon.”

EX-LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR A. N. POYNEER died at Montour, August 28, 1897. He was born in Connecticut in 1831. Removing to Iowa in 1861, he settled on the farm which has ever since been his home. He was one of the most honored and respected citizens of this State and had been connected with public affairs for many years. He was a member of the State Senate during the Nineteenth General Assembly, and was successively elected to the twentieth, twenty-first and twenty-second. In the twenty-second he served as chairman of the committee on agriculture, where his knowledge as a practical farmer proved of great value. In 1889 he was the Republican candidate for Lieutenant Governor, and elected by a large majority. He won distinguished credit by his ability as a legislator and the fairness and impartiality with which he presided over the Senate.

CHARLES EUGENE SCHOFF, journalist, was born in Portland, Michigan, June 10, 1838; he died in Grinnell, Iowa, August 17, 1897. Mr. Schoff was connected with *The Union*, at Champaign, Illinois, for some years, but in 1882 removed to Grinnell where he founded *The Signal*, which supported the principles and policy of the Greenback party. A few years later he purchased *The Independent*, merging the two papers into *The Independent-Signal*. He was one of the sufferers in the great cyclone of 1882, but his family escaped with their lives, though they lost their house and its contents. He was for many years a stricken invalid, but he so conducted his paper as to win a high degree of personal respect in the community where he lived, as well as recognition throughout the State.

HON. JOHN D. FLANAGAN, who represented Webster county in the 24th General Assembly, died at his home in Fort Dodge, Thursday, August 26, 1897, from a dose of strychnine taken with suicidal intent, while laboring under a fit of despondency. Mr. Flanagan was born in Rothfreedah, New Castle West, Ireland, in 1852. He received a good education, and came to the United States at the age of 22. He entered the retail grocery business in Chicago and was successful. In 1884 he bought a section of land near Fort Dodge and made his home upon it. In 1892 he was elected to the General Assembly, and in 1893 served as assistant director of the agricultural department of the World's Fair at Chicago.

MAJOR W. R. ENGLISH was born in Philadelphia, January 15, 1815; he died at his home in Glenwood, Iowa, May 29, 1897. He had a most creditable record in the military service. He entered the 1st regiment of U. S. dragoons, under Col. S. W. Kearney in 1840, serving three years as private, corporal and sergeant. In the war of the rebellion he was first a private in Co. A., 4th Iowa Infantry, rising to the rank of Major. This was General G. M. Dodge's old regiment. He held many important offices in civil life, standing high in the confidence of the people of his section of the State.

HON. JOHN C. BILLS was born in the State of New York in 1833; he died in Davenport, Iowa, August 23, 1897. Mr. Bills was one of the foremost lawyers in the State. He also attained a high position in the councils of the Democratic party, as well as in the estimation of all who knew him. He was three times elected mayor of Davenport, and served four years as State senator from Scott county.

DR. JESSE OREN, a pioneer resident of the State, died in La Porte City August 25, 1897. He was born in York county, Pennsylvania, in 1824, and removed to Iowa in 1856. He settled in La Porte in 1858 and soon after taught the first school in that town. He was in the Russian medical service during the Crimean war, and was handsomely rewarded by the Emperor for his valuable services.

DENNIS TUNGATE, who came to the site of Des Moines with the Mormons in 1847, died on the 2d day of August, 1897, at the advanced age of 84 years. He left the party of emigrants which was enroute for Salt Lake, Utah, on reaching the Des Moines river, and had resided in the capital city since it was founded.

MICHAEL FOSTER, was born in Germany, May 5, 1819; he died in Cass township, Hamilton county, Iowa, August 29, 1897. He came to Iowa in 1857, and settled on the farm where he lived until his death. Mr. and Mrs. Foster were foremost among the founders of the Catholic church at Webster City.



DOMINIE HENRY P. SCHOLTE.
President of the Holland Colony at Pella, Iowa.